



奇趣英语

短文集

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西北工业大学出版社

奇葩英语

词汇手册

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奇趣英语短文集

Collected Works of Fabulous English Essays

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【内容简介】 本文集是专为高等学校英语专业的学生及广大英语爱好者提供的一本通过大量快速阅读获得国内外现代社会信息的新颖阅读教材。它在提供大量语言信息的基础上,帮助学习者培养英语语感,扩大社交场合常用交际词汇,快速提高英语综合应用能力。其特点是文章短小精悍,材料新颖,通俗易懂,内容丰富,贴近生活,具有时代性、趣味性及可思性。文集选材内容涉及当今世界社会生活的方方面面,从社会学的角度看,读者阅读后都能从正面、侧面或反面感受到某种震撼心灵的现实性启示,从而思考历史巨变、政治纷争、经济活动、文化差异等诸多因素对社会进程及人们心里产生的深远影响。

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前 言

《奇趣英语短文集》旨在为高等学校英语专业的学生及广大英语爱好者提供一本拓展视野、独辟学习路径、课内外均可使用的新颖阅读教材，帮助英语学习者通过学习快速阅读，在收集大量语言信息的基础上，品味英语语言风格，逐步培养英语语感，感受语言材料所展现的世间万象，熟悉国内外当代社会生活，逐步扩大社交场合常用交际词汇量，掌握新闻报道的写作技巧，培养英语综合应用能力和提高用英语进行交际的实践能力。

本文集共收录各种短文1100余篇，所选语言材料内容涉及政治、经济、文教、新闻、军事、金融、商贸、公检法、财税、旅游、体育、科普、反恐、环保、航空航天、交通运输、邮电通信、医疗卫生、食品安全、天灾人祸、风土人情等各个领域，以展现从七大洲到四大洋，世界各地，普天之下，当今现代人类社会涉及重大全球性和地区性问题上以及普通大众社会活动中已经发生的和正在发生的各种奇闻趣事。这些短文有的令人欢欣鼓舞、精神振奋，有的令人心悦诚服、拍手叫绝，有的令人潸然泪下、扼腕叹息，有的令人匪夷所思、啼笑皆非……一言以蔽之，大千世界中现代人在文明生活中演绎的五味杂陈故事，从社会学的角度看，对于生活在这个地球上的人们来说，都能从正面、侧面或反面感受到某种震撼心灵的现实性的启示，从而捕捉社会生活的内在蕴蓄，领略历史巨变、政治纷争、经济活动、文化差异、人际关系、社会习性、生活习惯、人物心理及民族心理等诸多因素对社会进程及人们心理产生的深远影响及思考。

本文集与篇幅过长的传统阅读教材最显著的区别是短小精悍，材料新颖，语言规范，通俗易懂，内容丰富，贴近生活，具有时代性、趣味性及可思性。读者不妨随意挑选一篇欣赏一下，相信要通读本文集的强烈欲望会油然而生，从而爱不释手，仔细品味，畅想解读，乐在其中。

由于水平有限和时间仓促，书中难免有不妥之处，敬请广大读者批评指正。

编 者

2011年4月

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1. Program launched to protect biggest panda reserve

A land reserve program was launched on Wednesday to protect forests in the country's biggest remaining giant panda habitat in Pingwu county, Sichuan province.

The program is expected to provide "migration corridors" that help increase the animals' access to food, shelter and mating opportunities.

Jiang Chu, a local forestry official, said the program will improve the effectiveness of Sichuan's nature conservation.

2. Farmer sold "ancient treasure" for 15,000 yuan

A farmer in Chengdu, Sichuan province, was recently duped of 15,000 yuan by four men who claimed to have dug out an ancient treasure from his land.

The four suspects, who claimed to be staff members of the local seismological bureau, convinced the farmer that they found a gold plate belonging to Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty (1644—1911) when setting up "earthquake detecting equipment" on his field.

The four told the farmer he could buy the plate for 15,000 yuan.

The police said the fake gold plate is worth no more than 25 yuan.

3. Girl, 4, thrashed by stepmother wakes up from coma

A 4-year-old girl, whose stepmother thrashed her, causing server brain damage, recently woke up from a coma after 42 days in Chongqing municipality.

Li Chunyan, the girl's biological mother, is worried if her daughter will ever be able to lead a normal life, as she still cannot move her right hand and right leg.

Doctors said the girl's treatment and recovery in the next six months will be crucial.

The girl's abusive stepmother, Weng Guanyou, was taken into custody on Sep. 29.

The girl's father said the family had received more than 100,000 yuan in donations.

4. Nanny takes care of boy, 4, "abandoned" by rich parents

A couple in Luoyang, Henan province, have disappeared after handing over their 4-year-old son to a nanny.

In May 2008, Ma Tao's parents, both business people, hired a nanny, Qian Mei, to take their son to her home on the weekends.

Like every weekend, Qian picked up Ma from his parents' house in April, but the boy's parents never showed up at Qian's house to pick up the boy.

Qian did not abandon Ma. Instead, she is doing all sorts of jobs so she can enroll him in kindergarten.

5. Uncle tried to rape nephew's bride, turn out to be a man

A court in Taikang county, Henan province, recently sentenced a teenager to a year and

a half in prison for disguising himself as a girl to dupe a mentally ill man.

On April 6, Xiao Jie, 17, who was dressed like a woman, met a mentally man on a blind date and agreed to marry him after the latter's family promised to give 10,000 yuan as a betrothal gift.

The very next day, Xiao and the mentally ill man were married.

Xiao's plan to vanish into thin air on the wedding night failed when the groom's uncle, Liu, attempted to rape him, obviously mistaking him for a girl.

Xiao managed to escape Liu's hold, but on his way out, his dress fell apart, revealing his manhood.

The court also sentenced Liu to three years in prison with a five-year reprieve for attempt to rape.

6. Police finally nab killer on the run for a decade

Police in Puyang, Henan province, recently arrested a businessman who is accused of killing a man 10 years ago.

Xu Junqi, 44, who owns a steel company with more than 100 employees, was arrested on Oct. 25 from Shanxi province.

Xu is accused of thrashing a man to death with the help of three other accomplices.

After committing the crime, Xu fled to Shanxi province, where he started working at a steel company under an alias.

In the past ten years, he managed to save enough money to start his own venture.

Following a tip-off that the suspect returned to Henan province to meet his family during the Spring, the police managed to trace him to Shanxi province.

7. "Killer" garners sympathy after turning over new leaf

A murder accused who had been living under an alias for 15 years in Liuyang, Hunan province, has managed to gain sympathy from fellow villagers following his arrest recently.

The man is accused of being involved in a murder in Fujian province before he fled to Liuyang in 1991.

He started living in small village using a different name and even married a local woman in 1995. The couple has a 12-year-old daughter.

The village remembers the accused as a very good carpenter, and a responsible husband and father.

Nearly 100 residents of the village have signed a letter, pleading for leniency for him.

8. Swindler who loved to drive to stand trial soon

A man in Helin county, the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, will soon go on trial for duping a number of people of a total of 260,000 yuan.

In January 2009, the accused, surnamed Jin, rented a car for five days and realized

people showed him more respect when he drove.

In order to pay the monthly car rental fee of 6,000 yuan, Jin borrowed money from friends and credit cooperatives and even duped six people with promises of getting them driving licenses.

The lenders dragged Jin to court when they realized he had no intention of paying them back.

9. 17-year-old held for stealing 1m yuan from 30 households

Police in Huiyang, Guangdong province, recently arrested a habitual thief who climbed walls to get into more than 30 residences and made off with valuables.

Lin Guisen, 17, was caught as he was strolling in a residential community with stolen goods in his pockets.

Police later recovered a currency counter and safety box full of cash and jewelry from his apartment.

Lin confessed that he had stolen goods and cash worth almost 1 million yuan from more than 30 households this year.

10. Drugged lovers reveal real names only after arrest

Police in Quanzhou, Fujian province, arrested a man and his girlfriend last week for possession drugs, only to realize that neither of them revealed their real names to each other.

The man, 22, and his lover, 21, said they fell in love with each other about a month ago, but never disclosed their real names to each other for fear of being reported for drug consumption.

11. Tough school rules spark debate among parents

Controversial rules set by a middle school in Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu province, have sparked a heated debate among the students' parents.

According to the new school rules, parents must not allow their children to watch television from Sunday to Thursday. On weekends, students must not watch Hunan TV, which is known for its pioneering entertainment shows.

The school has also asked students not to invite their classmates to their birthday parties.

It has also prohibited students from using gadgets such as computers and mobile phones.

Parents have argued that they do not want to raise bookworms, and the rules will not help turn their wards into excellent students.

12. 25,000 yuan for worker who was left sexually paralyzed

A court in Zhangjiagang, Jiangsu province, recently ordered a steel factory to pay a

worker, who injured his pelvis in a worksite accident four years ago, 25,000 yuan in compensation.

In 2006, Zhang Lu's pelvis was crushed under steel pipes that came crashing down on him.

Zhang and his wife sued the company earlier this year after learning that the former will never be able to lead a normal sex life.

13. Drug trafficker wanted for murder arrested from hotel

Police in Puyang, Henan province, recently arrested a suspected drug trafficker who was wanted by the Hubei police in a murder case.

The accused allegedly stole 10 million yuan from other drug dealers before fleeing to Puyang in September.

On Oct. 10, he was shot and injured by the drug trafficking gang.

The police traced his whereabouts when he checked into a Puyang hotel on Oct. 28 and broke into his room while he was asleep.

Details of his involvement in the Hubei murder case were not revealed.

14. Doctors remove nail from 15-year-old boy's stomach

Doctors at a hospital in Xinyang, Henan province, recently operated upon a 15-year-old boy to remove a nail that had been in his stomach for four years.

Yang Yang, 15, swallowed a steel nail by mistake in 2006, but was afraid to tell his mother because his father had recently passed away.

Yang only told his mother of the nail in his stomach late last month and was immediately rushed to a hospital.

Doctors found that the nail was lodged in Yang's bronchus.

Yang underwent the knife last week and is recovering well, doctors said.

15. Amorous fake cop in hands of real ones

A fake police officer's cover was blown recently when two of the women he was dating and cheating money out of bumped into each other, triggering a series of events that exposed him.

The man, surnamed Xuan, had pretended to be a high-ranking police officer for six years in Anshan, Liaoning province, to impress gullible women and help him trick them out of money.

But he came unstuck when he visited a supermarket with one of his girlfriends on March 28 and bumped into another of his conquests.

The woman got into an argument over the man and police were called when the dispute turned into a tussle.

With the intervention of real police officers, the man was forced to reveal his true

The court is yet to deliver a verdict.

19. 5 minors held for robbing 40 pharmacies in a month

Police in Shenyang, Liaoning province, on Tuesday nabbed five youths who allegedly robbed more than 40 local pharmacies for money to surf the Internet.

The accused, all minors, committed all the robberies in October.

Most of the time, they would enter drug stores late in the night and thrash the staff members before making off with the cash.

Following their arrest, the five teens told the police they were addicted to the Internet and needed money to visit Internet cafés, which was why they took to robbing.

20. Police say: Thanks but no thanks for help

A 64-year-old man in Shanghai's Baoshan district has been voluntarily helping traffic police every evening at a crossing near his residential community.

Zha Zhongren, 64, lives near an intersection which suffers from traffic jams every evening and is the site of occasional accidents.

When Zha appeared and tried to keep order, many people admired and praised his efforts while others said that Zha had no right to direct traffic.

Traffic police in the district thanked the old man but did not advocate that others imitate him.

21. Family gets stuck on ferris wheel as operator snoozes

A family of three was stuck on a ferris wheel at a park in Yiwu, Zhejiang province, for nearly an hour on Sunday after the operator switched off the ride thinking no one was on it.

The couple and their 6-year-old daughter shouted for help but no avail. They then had to phone the police, who arrived on the scene and woke up the sleeping operator.

The operator said he had no idea someone was riding the ferris wheel and switched it off to save electricity.

22. Myanmar woman escapes family that bought her

Police in Wenzhou, Zhejiang province, found a woman walking along an express way and learnt she had just escaped from a local family that had bought her.

The woman is from Myanmar.

A man came to the police station to claim her, saying she was his wife and he had bought from Yunnan province for 26,000 yuan.

Considering the case was related to cross-border human trafficking, the woman was sent to the related police station in Yunnan.