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劉世沐 主編

編輯 鄭榮成 章士法

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刘世沐 主编

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编者的话

为了帮助广大学习英语的读者较快地学好英语，我们特编辑《英语学习》丛书，由北京出版社分辑出版。内容包括：学习指导、语音、语法、词汇、口语、翻译、写作练习、注释读物、文学欣赏、戏剧电影选以及课外活动材料等。选材不求系统、全面，主要是向读者提供一些学习英语的辅助材料和基本知识。

本辑的读物，大部分在《英语学习》上发表过，收入本书时，有些注释经编者作了修改；有几篇是新选的。凡此均不一一注明。

我们水平有限，热切希望广大读者提出批评建议，使这套丛书能更好地适合读者的需要，能为我国实现四个现代化服务。

一九七九年 五月

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A Story of Robin Hood*

A great many songs were made up about Robin Hood, and these songs were sung in the cottages and huts all over the land for hundreds of years afterward.

Here is a little story that is told in one of those songs.

Robin Hood was standing one day under a green tree by the roadside. While he was listening to the birds among the leaves, he saw a young man passing by.¹ This young man was dressed in a fine suit of bright red cloth;² and, as he tripped gayly³ along the road, he seemed to be as happy as the day.

"I will not trouble him," said Robin Hood, "for I think he is on his way to his wedding."

The next day Robin stood in the same place. He had not been there long when he saw⁴ the same young man coming down the road. But he did not seem to be so happy this time. He had left his scarlet coat at home, and at every step he sighed and groaned.⁵

"Ah, the sad day! the sad day!" he kept saying to himself.

Then Robin Hood stepped out from under the tree, and said, —

"I say, young man! Have you money to spare for my merry-men and me?"

"I have nothing at all," said the young man, "but ⁶ five shillings and a ring."

"A gold ring?" asked Robin.

"Yes," said the young man, "it is a gold ring. Here it is."

"Ah, I see!" said Robin, "it is a wedding ring."⁷

"I have kept it these seven years," said the young man; "I have kept it to give to my bride on our wedding day.⁸ We were going to be married yesterday. But her father has promised her to a rich old man⁹ whom she never saw."

"What is your name?" asked Robin.

"My name is Allin-a-dale,"¹⁰ said the young man.

"What will you give me, in gold or fee,"¹¹ said Robin, "if I will help you win your bride again in spite of the rich old man¹² to whom she has been promised?"

"I have no money," said Allin, "but I will promise to be your servant."

"How many miles is it to the place where the maiden¹³ lives?" asked Robin.

"It is not far," said Allin. "But she is to be married this very day,¹⁴ and the church is five miles away."

Then Robin made haste to dress himself as a harper;¹⁵ and in the afternoon he stood in the door of the church.

“Who are you?” said the bishop,¹⁶ “and what are you doing here?”

“I am a bold harper,” said Robin, “the best in the north country.”¹⁷

“I am glad you have come,” said the bishop kindly. “There is no music that I like so well as that of the harp.¹⁸ Come in, and play for us.”

“I will go in,” said Robin Hood; “but I will not give you any music until I see the bride and the bridegroom.”

Just then an old man came in. He was dressed in rich clothing,¹⁹ but was bent with age,²⁰ and was feeble and grey.²¹ By his side walked a fair young girl. Her cheeks were very very pale, and her eyes were full of tears.

“This is no match,”²² said Robin. “Let the bride choose for herself.”

Then he put his horn²³ to his lips, and blew three times. The very next minute, four and twenty men,²⁴ all dressed in green, and carrying long bows in their hands, came running across the fields. And, as they marched into the church, all in a row,²⁵ the foremost among them was Allin-a-dale.

“Now whom do you choose?” said Robin to the maiden.

“I choose Allin-a-dale,” she was blushing.

“And Allin-a-dale you shall have,”²⁶ said Robin; “and he that takes you from Allin-a-dale shall find that he has Robin Hood to deal with.”²⁷

And so the fair maiden and Allin-a-dale were married then and there,²⁸ and the rich old man went home in a great rage.

“And thus having ended this merry wedding²⁹

The bride looked like a queen:

And so they returned to the merry green wood

Amongst³⁰ the leaves so green.”



〔注 释〕

* Robin Hood [ˈrɒbɪn ˈhʊd], 罗宾汉。英国中古时代（约十二世纪末、十三世纪初）传说中的绿林好汉，他和他的伙伴们出没于英格兰北部名为 Sherwood 的树林里，身穿绿衣，手执弓箭，专门劫富济贫，跟暴虐的郡长（sheriff）进行机智勇敢的斗争。关于罗宾汉的传说多保存在英国的民谣（ballads）中，流传极广。英国诗人、历史小说家司各特（Walter Scott, 1771-1832）的名著《艾凡赫》（*Ivanhoe* 旧译《撒克逊劫后英雄略》）中也有罗宾汉的故事。

1. he saw a young man passing by: 他看见一个年青人走过去。用现在分词 passing, 表示动作未完成。
2. a fine suit of bright red cloth: 一身鲜红而华丽的服装。
3. tripped gayly: 踏着轻快的步子。
4. He had not been there long when he saw . . . : 他在那里站了没多久, 就看见……。
5. and at every step he sighed and groaned: 每走一步都长吁短叹。
groan, 痛苦地呻吟。
6. but: 除了。这是介词, = except。
7. a wedding ring: 结婚戒指。
8. I have kept it to give to my bride on our wedding day. = I have kept it in order to give it to my bride on our wedding day: 我把这戒指保存了这么久, 就是为了在结婚那天给我新娘的。
9. promised her to a rich old man: 把她许给了一个有钱的老头子。
10. Allin-a-dale ['ælinə'deɪl]: 人名, 后来成为罗宾汉手下有名的歌手。
11. in gold or fee: (用)金子还是(用)封地。fee, 封建社会贵族分封的土地。
12. if I will help you win your bride again in spite of the rich old man: 要是我能不顾那个有钱的老头子的反对帮你夺回你的新娘的话。
13. maiden: 少女。
14. this very day: 就是今天。此处 very 是形容词, 起强调的作用。
15. harper: 竖琴手。
16. bishop: 主教。
17. the north country: 指英格兰北部。
18. There is no music that I like so well as that of the harp: 竖琴的音乐我是最喜欢不过的了。
19. He was dressed in rich clothing: 他穿着华贵的衣服。注意, clothing 是不可数名词, 为衣服的统称。
20. was bent with age: 老得直不起腰来。
21. grey: 头发花白。

22. This is no match: 这一对可真不相配。
23. horn: 喇叭; 号角。
24. four and twenty men = twenty-four men: 这是较古的用法。
25. all in a row: 排成一排。这个短语起状语作用。
26. Allin-a-dale you shall have: Allin-a-dale 一定是属于你的了。
27. and he that takes you from Allin-a-dale... to deal with = and anyone who takes you from Allin-a-dale... to deal with: 谁敢把你从 Allin-a-dale 那里夺走, 谁就得跟罗宾汉打打交道。注意这一句和上一句文体古雅, 是模仿民谣中的诗句; 这里用了倒装句, 用了 he that 这一较古的用法。
28. then and there: 当时当地。
29. And thus having ended this merry wedding = And this merry wedding having thus ended: 这场欢乐的婚礼就这样结束了。这是个独立主格结构, 是修饰下一行中 looked 的状语。
30. amongst [ə'mʌŋst] = among

(苍 梧 注 释)

Rip Van Winkle

after Washington Irving*

I

IN a village at the foot of the mountains there lived many years ago, a simple good-natured fellow, whose name was Rip Van Winkle.¹

Although a pleasant, kind man,² Rip was very lazy. His friends liked him very much, but his wife scolded him all day for his laziness. Rip had only one way to reply to her: he shrugged his shoulders, shook his head, but said nothing. Sometimes he would take his gun and his dog Wolf,³ leave the house and go for long walks in the mountains.

One fine autumn day Rip and his dog Wolf went out hunting to one of the highest parts of the mountains.

Late in the afternoon he felt tired and lay down under a big tree. Through an opening among the trees he could see all the lower country for many miles. He enjoyed the lovely scenery very much. But it was getting late. He must go back. He sighed as he thought of his wife and her scoldings. He was about to start homeward when suddenly he heard a voice calling him:

“Rip Van Winkle! Rip Van Winkle!”

He looked around, but he could see nobody. He thought it was a mistake, but he heard the same voice calling:

“Rip Van Winkle! Rip Van Winkle!”

At the same time his dog Wolf came to his master's side, growling and looking fearfully down among the trees⁴.

Rip looked in the same direction and saw a strange figure⁵ coming slowly up the mountain. It was a little old man bending under something he carried on his back.⁶

Rip was surprised to see anyone⁷ in this lonely place and was still more surprised at the appearance⁸ of the old man. The stranger was short, with thick bushy hair and a long grey beard. He was dressed in a strange way. The man made signs for Rip to come down⁹ and help him. As usual, Rip was ready to give his help, though he did not quite like the strange man. He took the load from him. It was a keg. It was very heavy, evidently full of wine.¹⁰

As they went up, Rip heard long rolling sounds,¹¹ like distant thunder. He stopped and listened. He thought it was one of those thunder storms which often took place in the mountains, and went on. After some time they came to a hollow lying between two high mountains.¹²

In this hollow Rip saw more strange things.

In the middle of the hollow there was a company of old men playing at ninepins.¹³ They were also dressed in a strange way, and all had beards of different shapes and colours. **Rip** was very much surprised to see that their faces were quite serious; they neither spoke nor smiled. Nothing interrupted

the stillness of the scene except the noise of the rolling balls which sounded like thunder.

As Rip and his companion came near them, they suddenly stopped their game and looked at him in such a way that fear came into his heart.

His companion now poured the wine from the keg into several big mugs and made a sign for Rip to pass these round to the players. The men drank the wine in deep silence, and then returned to their game.

After a while Rip grew less afraid. When no one was looking at him, he even drank some of the wine, which he found very good, and drank several times. At last his head grew heavy, and before long he fell into a deep sleep.¹⁴

II

When he awoke, he found himself lying under the big tree again. He rubbed his eyes. It was a bright sunny morning, and the birds sang in the trees. He remembered all: the strange man with the keg, the hollow among the mountains, the mugs of fine wine.

"Surely someone has played a trick on me,"¹⁵ he thought, suspecting those strange old men in the hollow.

"Oh! that mug! that dreadful mug!"¹⁶ thought Rip.

He looked around for his gun, but in place of his new clean gun he found lying near him an old rusty thing.¹⁷ His dog Wolf was not there. He shouted:

“Wolf! Wolf!”

But Wolf did not appear. Only the echoes of his shouting were heard among the mountains.

Rip was sorry to lose his dog and gun; he was afraid to meet his wife; but he was feeling very hungry and wanted to be home for a good meal. He rose to his feet with great difficulty, for his back ached and his feet were stiff. He shrugged his shoulders, shook his head, took up the rusty gun, and went home.

Near the village he met several people, but he did not know them, which surprised him,¹⁸ for he thought that he knew everyone in that part of the country. Their dress, too, was of a different fashion from that to which he was used.¹⁹ They all looked at him with surprise. Everybody he met stopped to stare at him; and they all stroked their chin.²⁰ Seeing this, Rip did the same and, to his great surprise, he found that his beard had grown a foot long!²¹ In the village the children ran behind him, laughing and pointing at his long grey beard. The village was changed. It was larger, and there were more people in it.

Rip found his house with some difficulty. He approached with fear, thinking every moment that he might hear the angry voice of his wife.

The house looked quite old, its windows were broken. Rip entered the house. It was empty. He called loudly for his wife and children,²² but nobody answered.

He came out again and walked along the street wondering. His long grey beard, his rusty gun, his strange dress attracted the attention of men, women and children. By this time a crowd had gathered around him, and was looking him over from head to foot.

At this moment a fresh nice-looking woman came up to him. She had in her arms a healthy little child, which began to cry.²³

"Hush, Rip," the young woman cried, "hush! The old man will not hurt you!"

The name of the child, the face of the mother, the sound of her voice made Rip Van Winkle think that he knew them.

"What is your name, my good woman?" he asked.

"Judith Gandiner."²⁴

"And your father's name?"

"Ah, poor man!²⁵ Rip Van Winkle was his name, but twenty years ago he went away from home with his gun and his dog, and never returned. His dog came home without him the next day. Nobody has heard of him since.²⁶ I was a little girl then!"

Rip had only one more question to ask, but he put it with a trembling voice:

"Where is your mother?"

"Oh, she died some time ago."

Rip caught his daughter in his arms.²⁷