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# 初级英语阅读训练

A PRIMARY READING COURSE  
FOR ENGLISH

(中英文对照)

赵元菽 主审  
莫 克 译

重庆大学出版社

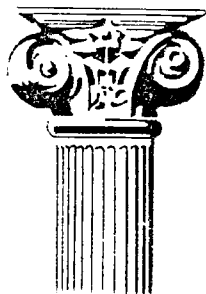


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## 内 容 简 介

为了有效地提高读者的英语阅读能力,本书翻译了20篇中英文对照的著名童话、寓言故事,目的是使读者在轻松愉快的心态下快速掌握英文阅读技能,并减少查阅字典所花的时间。是最适合中学学生和大学一、二年级学生的英语辅助读物,也适用于成人初学者。

通过20篇精炼的童话、寓言故事,基本概括了英语修辞和固定搭配的习惯用语,以及地域、社会方言。深入浅出、循序渐进地引导读者进入英语思维和学会语言表达,这种自然接受的潜移默化,有效地增强读者对英文用语的记忆,达到事半功倍的效果。

为了提高全民族的文化素质,本书以优质低价服务于广大青少年读者,特将此书列入平价工程书库。

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莫 克 译

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## 1

The Mouse, the Bird, and  
the Sausage

(considerably)

ONCE UPON A TIME a mouse, a bird, and a sausage came together and set up house. For a long time they lived together in peace and happiness, and they managed to increase their possessions by a considerable amount. The bird's job was to fly into the forest every day and bring back wood. The mouse had to carry water, light the fire and set the table, while the sausage did the cooking.

Yet, those who lead the good life are always looking for ways to make it even better. And, one day, as the bird was flying about, he met another bird and boasted about how wonderful his life was. But the other bird called him a poor sap because he had to do all the hard work, while his companions just enjoyed themselves at home. Indeed, after the mouse started the fire and carried the water into the house, she generally went to her little room and rested until she was called to set the table. The sausage always stayed by the pot and kept an eye on the cooking, and right before mealtime he usually slid through the stew or vegetables to make sure everything was salted and seasoned properly. And that was all he did. When the bird came home and laid down his load, they would sit down at the table, and after finishing the meal they would sleep soundly until the

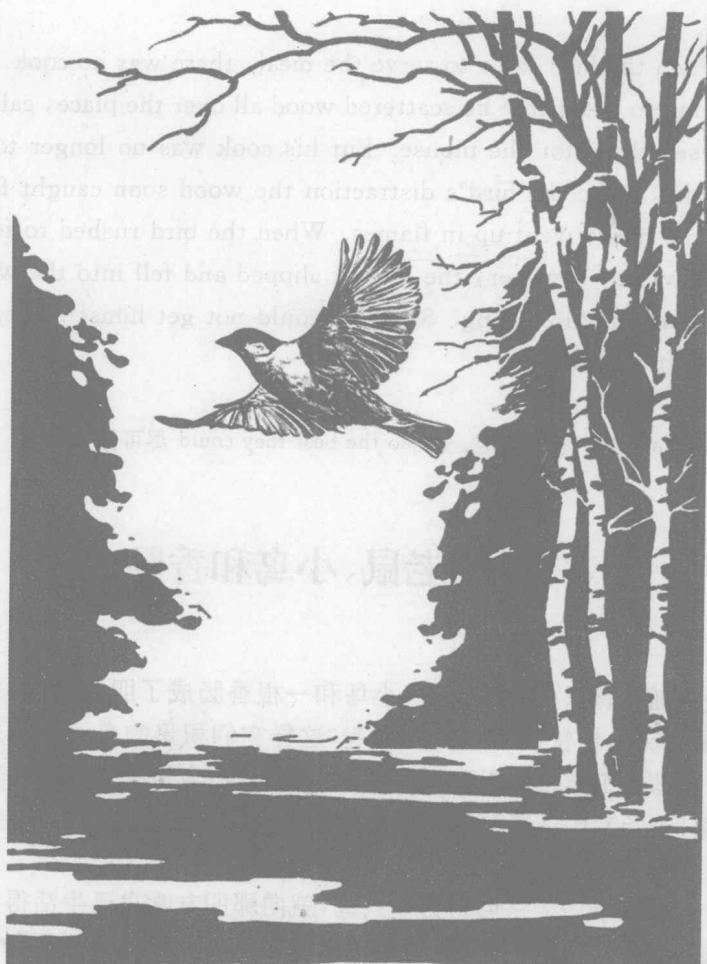
next morning. Such was their glorious life.

However, the bird had been disturbed by what the other bird had said, and next day he refused to fly into the forest. He told his companions that he had been their slave long enough, and that they must have taken him for a fool. He demanded that they try another arrangement. The mouse and the sausage argued against this, but the bird would not be denied, and he insisted that they try a new way. So they drew lots, and it fell upon the sausage to get the wood from then on, while the mouse became cook, and the bird was to fetch water.

What happened?

After the sausage went to fetch the wood, the bird started the fire, and the mouse put the kettle on the stove. Then they waited for the sausage to return with the wood for the next day. However, the sausage was gone so long that the other two had an uneasy feeling, and the bird flew out a little way to meet him. Not far from their home, however, he encountered a dog, and he learned that this dog had considered the sausage free game and had grabbed him and swallowed him down. The bird was furiously and accused the dog of highway robbery, but it was of no use, for the dog maintained he had found forged letters on the sausage, and therefore the sausage had had to pay for<sup>[1]</sup> this with his life.

Now the bird sadly picked up the wood and carried it back home. He told the mouse what he had seen and heard, and they were very distressed. Nevertheless, they agreed to do the best they could<sup>[2]</sup> and stay together. Meanwhile, the bird set the table, and the mouse prepared the meal. She intended to put the finishing touches on it by seasoning it and sliding through the





vegetables the way the sausage used to do, but before she even reached the middle, she got stuck and had to pay for it with her life.

When the bird came to serve the meal, there was no cook. He became so upset that he scattered wood all over the place, calling and searching for the mouse. But his cook was no longer to be found. Due to the bird's distraction the wood soon caught fire, and the house went up in flames. When the bird rushed to fetch some water, however, the bucket slipped and fell into the well, dragging the bird along. Since he could not get himself out, he was left to drown.

注释:

[1]pay for 付出,得到报应。[2]do the best they could 尽可能地。

## 一 小老鼠、小鸟和香肠

从前,有只小老鼠、一只小鸟和一根香肠成了朋友,它们盖了房子,长期、愉快友好地住在一起,这样它们积聚的东西也越来越多。小鸟的工作是每天飞到森林里去捡木柴,老鼠挑水、生火、安排饭菜,香肠专门从事烹调。

谁好日子过久了,都想来点锦上添花!

一天,小鸟半路遇到另一只鸟,就向那朋友吹自己生活得如何舒服,可那只鸟嘲笑它,说它是个可怜的傻瓜,尽干那种艰苦的活,而另外两个在家里舒舒服服。老鼠生了火,挑水之后便到自己的小房间里去休息,直到叫它端饭菜上桌子。香肠只是守在炉边,看食物煮得怎么样,将到吃午饭时分,就过去看看粥和蔬菜,然后在蔬菜上放盐巴,再调味准备吃。小鸟回家了,把重担撂在一边,它们在

桌旁坐下，吃完后就睡到第二天一早。这种生活确实令人愉快。

又一天，小鸟因为受到它朋友的挑拨，不愿再去捡木柴，它说自己真傻，苦役干得够久了，今后，大伙儿必须重新安排工作。无论老鼠和香肠怎样苦苦地劝说，小鸟还是坚持己见。它们决定抽签，结果是香肠得去捡木柴，老鼠做厨子，小鸟挑水。

结果怎样呢？

香肠到森林里去捡柴，小鸟生火，老鼠放好罐子，然后他俩等待香肠把第二天用的木柴运回来。可香肠在外面耽搁太久，另两个以为出了什么事情，小鸟飞出去找它。不远，鸟遇到一条狗，狗一看见可怜的香肠，把它看作合法的猎物，扑向它，抓住它，把它吞下了肚。

小鸟痛苦地向狗抱怨，责备它公开掠夺，可这没用，狗说它在香肠身上搜到伪造的信件，所以把它吞了。

小鸟取了木柴，悲伤地运回家，把它所见所闻说了出来。它们都闷闷不乐，但决定尽可能住在一起。于是小鸟铺桌子，老鼠做饭菜。它试着煮饭菜，像香肠一样还把自己放进蔬菜里调味。在它掉进锅里后，没来到中间，就停止不动了，它被牢牢地粘住了，白白送了一条命。

小鸟回来想端菜，可没见到厨子。小鸟急得把木柴一扔，又叫又找，但还是不见厨子的影儿。小鸟一不小心，木柴碰到火后烧了起来，小鸟急着去取水，但是水桶掉到井里，小鸟也一起掉进去，挣扎几下，就淹死了。

## 2

# The Straw, the Coal, and the Bean

THERE ONCE WAS A POOR OLD WOMAN Who lived in a village, and she had gathered a bunch of beans that she wanted to cook. So she prepared a fire on her hearth, lighting it with a handful of straw to make it burn faster. As she was emptying the beans into the pot, one of them slipped to the floor unnoticed and lay next to a straw. Soon after, a glowing coal jumped from the hearth and joined the other two. Then the straw began to speak. "Dear friends, where have you come from?"

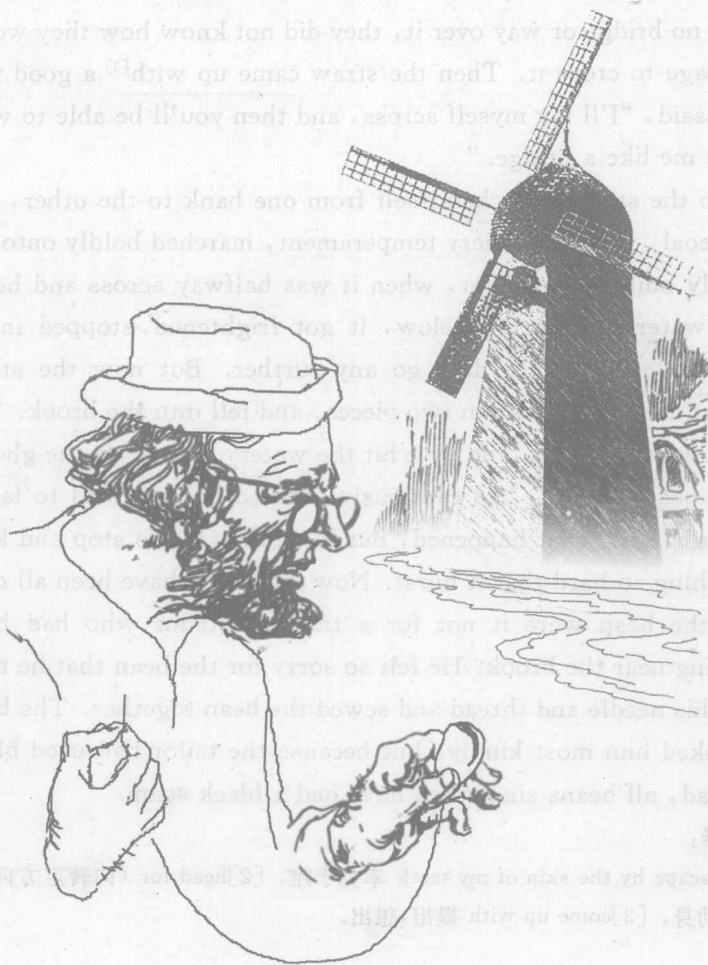
"Fortunately, I jumped out of the fire," responded the coal. "If I hadn't used sheer force, it would have been the end of me. I would have been burned to ashes."

"I also escaped by the skin of my teeth<sup>[1]</sup>," said the bean, "If the old woman had thrown me into the pot, I'd have been cooked into a soup without mercy like my comrades."

"Do you think my fate would have been any better?" said the straw. "The old woman let all my brothers burn up in smoke. She grabbed sixty all at once and put them to death. Fortunately, I slipped through her fingers."

"Well, what should we do now?" asked the coal.

"Since we were so lucky to escape death, I think we should stick together like good comrades," the bean said. "Also we'd better begin heading for<sup>[2]</sup> a foreign country before there's a new



fatality. ”

This proposal pleased the other two, and they set out on their way. However, they soon came to a small brook, and since there was no bridge or way over it, they did not know how they would manage to cross it. Then the straw came up with<sup>[3]</sup> a good idea and said, “I’ll lay myself across, and then you’ll be able to walk over me like a bridge. ”

So the straw stretched itself from one bank to the other, and the coal, who had a fiery temperament, marched boldly onto the newly built bridge. Yet, when it was halfway across and heard the water murmuring below, it got frightened, stopped in its tracks, and did not dare go any further. But now the straw began to burn, broke in two pieces, and fell into the brook. The coal tumbled after, and as it hit the water, it gave up the ghost. The bean, which, had cautiously, stayed behind, had to laugh when it saw what happened, but it was unable to stop and kept laughing so hard that it burst. Now, it would have been all over for the bean were it not for a traveling tailor who had been resting near the brook. He felt so sorry for the bean that he took out his needle and thread and sewed the bean together. The bean thanked him most kindly, but because the tailor had used black thread, all beans since then have had a black seam.

**注释:**

[1]escape by the skin of my teeth 幸免于难。[2]head for (向特定方向)出发,动身。[3]come up with 提出,想出。

## 二 麦秆、煤炭和豆子

从前，有个村里住着一个穷苦的老太婆，她采摘一些豆子准备烧煮。她在灶底生了火，再用一把麦草使炉火很快就旺了。她把豆子抖进罐子时，其中有一颗趁她不注意掉落在地上，躺在一根麦秆旁边，一会儿，一块烧红的煤从炉灶里跳出来加入了它俩的队伍。这时麦秆就开口了：“亲爱的朋友们，你们是从哪儿来的？”

煤答道：“我很走运，从炉火里逃出来了，如果我不拼命逃跑，我一定死得很惨，我早就给烧成煤灰了。”

豆子说：“我也毫无损伤地逃了出来，如果老太婆把我捡进罐子里，我会像同伴那样给无情地烧成豆糊。”

“难道较好的命运降临到我身上了吗？”麦秆说道，“老太婆把我所有的弟兄都化成了青烟，六十个弟兄一下子就送掉了性命。我幸好从她手指缝里逃了命。”

“那我们该怎么办呢？”煤问道。

“我认为，”豆子回答说，“我们已经侥幸地逃了命，我们必须像同甘共苦的伙伴一样团结起来，这样我们才不会面临新的不幸，我们最好能逃离这个地方，到外地去。”

这个建议得到了另外两个的赞同，它们开始一起出发了。不久，它们来到了一条小溪边，那儿既无跳板又无桥梁，它们不知该怎么渡过去。麦秆最后想到个办法，就说：“我横在水上当桥梁，你们就从我身上走过去。”说完，麦秆就伸展身子，从小溪这边伸到那边，有着火热性子的煤冒失地跳上新建好的桥梁上。但它一走到小溪中间，听到下面溪水潺潺而过，害怕极了，停了下来，也不敢再往前走。麦秆开始燃烧，断成两段，掉进了溪水里，煤也随它一起跌下去，吱吱吱地在水里沉没，它的性命也没了。豆子很小心，留在岸

上,忍不住大笑刚才这一幕。它笑得太厉害,连身子都裂成两半。幸好有个裁缝在小溪旁散步,要不,豆子也完了。因为这个裁缝富有同情心,他掏出针和线,把豆子缝拢来,豆子对他千恩万谢。裁缝用的是黑线,所以,从那以后所有的豆子身上都有一条黑缝。

### 3

## Old Sultan

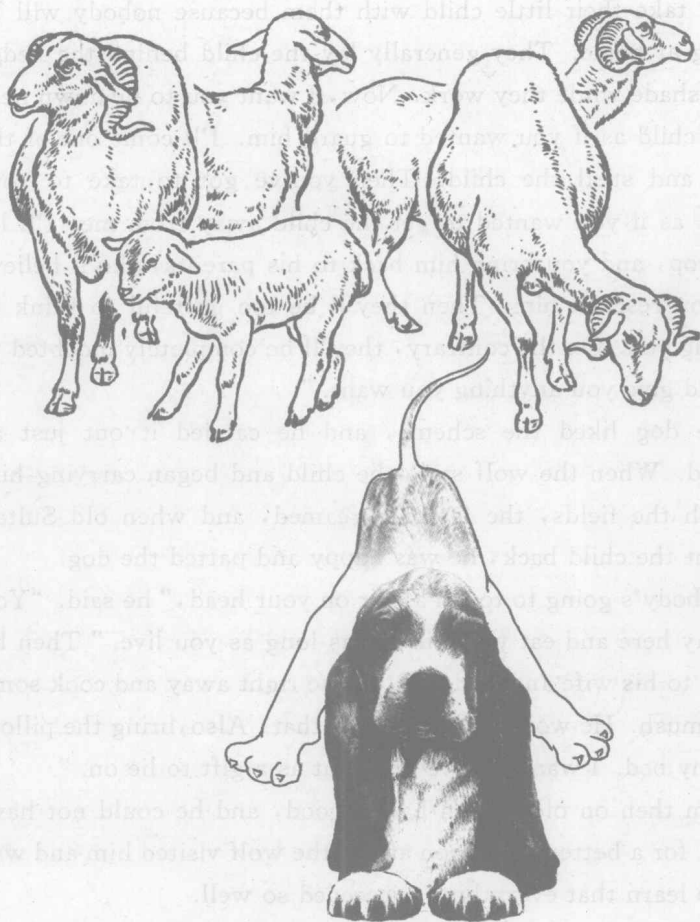
A FARMER HAD A FAITHFUL DOG NAMED SULTAN, and when the dog had grown old and lost all his teeth, he could no longer grip things tightly. One day, as the farmer was standing by the front door with his wife, he said, "I'm going to shoot old Sultan tomorrow. He's no longer of any use to us."

His wife felt sorry for the faithful creature, and she replied, "Couldn't we just keep him on and feed him? After all, he's served us so many years and has been loyal to us."

"My God!" the husband exclaimed, "Don't you have any sense<sup>[1]</sup>? He doesn't have a tooth left in his head, and there's not a thief who'd be afraid of him. It's time for him to go. He served us well, but he was also fed well in return<sup>[2]</sup>."

The poor dog was basking nearby in the sun and overheard everything that was said. He was sad that the next day was to be his last. But he had a good friend, the wolf, and in the evening he sneaked out into the forest to see him and whine about his impending fate.

"Listen, cousin," said the wolf. "Keep your spirits up. You





can depend on me to help you out of your dilemma<sup>[3]</sup>. In fact, I've already thought of something. Early tomorrow morning your master will be going out with his wife to make hay, and they'll take their little child with them because nobody will be staying at home. They generally lay the child behind the hedge in the shade while they work. Now, I want you to lie down next to the child as if you wanted to guard him. I'll come out of the forest and steal the child. Then you've got to take to your heels<sup>[4]</sup> as if you wanted to get the child away from me. I'll let him drop, and you bring him back to his parents, who'll believe that you rescued him. Then they'll be too grateful to think of harming you. On the contrary, they'll be completely indebted to you and give you anything you want."

The dog liked the scheme, and he carried it out just as planned. When the wolf stole the child and began carrying him through the fields, the father screamed, and when old Sultan brought the child back, he was happy and patted the dog.

"Nobody's going to touch a hair on your head," he said. "You can stay here and eat your fill for as long as you live." Then he turned to his wife and said, "Go home right away and cook some bread mush. He won't need to chew that. Also, bring the pillow from my bed. I want to give him that as a gift to lie on."

From then on old Sultan had it good, and he could not have wished for a better life. Soon after, the wolf visited him and was glad to learn that everything succeeded so well.

"Now, cousin," he said, "I hope you'll wink an eye when I steal a fat sheep from your master every now and then. Times are getting hard for all of us."

"Don't count on<sup>[5]</sup> that," the dog answered, "I intend to stay