



A
VAST
COLLECTION
OF
HUMOUR

周道焜 编注

也默夫覓



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幽 默 大 观

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华中工学院出版社

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序

幽默小品是人民大众喜闻乐见的一种民间文学形式。它“通过影射、讽喻、双关等修辞手法，在善意的微笑中，揭露生活中乖讹和不通情理之处。”幽默小品的特点是结构简短，构思巧妙，意境新颖，语言精炼，笔调清新诙谐。然而更重要的还在于：它具有浓厚的生活气息和深奥的人生哲理，使人们在获得艺术享受的同时受到启迪和教育。

对于学习英语的同志来说，阅读幽默作品不仅可以陶冶情操、丰富知识，而且还可以提高欣赏英语诙谐文字的能力和英语学习的兴趣。为此，编者从多年来广泛搜集的英美出版的各种幽默笑话书刊中，选出内容健康，艺术性较高的一千五百余篇，分别冠以标题，以人物为线索，编成《幽默大观》一书。

本书尽可能保持作品原貌，但有些作品个别地方作了改动。考虑到有些读者对英语中的方言、俏皮话、行话、俚语、双关语、一词多义、同音异义以及一些习惯用法不太熟悉，编者将疑难之处作了注释。对于一些涉及西方社会风俗习惯和背景知识的地方，也作了简要的说明。

本书在编写和出版过程中，得到了许多同志的热情支持与帮助。北京外语学院夏祖煌教授在百忙中审阅了部分初稿，华中工学院曹华民教授、程恩洪副教授仔细校阅了全部书稿，为本书润色；张义斌、左九如两位副教授也曾对初稿提了一些宝贵意见；章斌老师为本书绘制插图，在此谨向这些同志表示衷心的感谢。由于编者才疏学浅，孤陋寡闻，书中谬误之处在所难免，恳请读者指正。

编 者

一九八五年于喻家山



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Part One

CHILDREN



Let's Play Adam and Eve

Billie (who has eaten his apple): "Let's play Adam and Eve."

Pattie: "How do we do that?"

Billie: "You tempt me to eat your apple and I'll give in."

Notes

1. Let's play Adam and Eve.
我们来装亚当和夏娃吧。

根据《圣经》，夏娃引诱亚当偷食禁果，上帝发现后，将他们逐出伊甸乐园。

2. How do we do that?

我们怎么装呢？

3. You tempt me to eat your apple and I'll give in.

你要我吃你的苹果，我就听你的。

give in: 屈服，让步。

"Eve" Is Crying

Mother: "Why did you strike your little sister?"

Pattie: "Well, we were playing Adam and Eve, and instead of tempting me with the apple, she ate it herself."

Notes

1. Why did you strike your little sister?

你为什么打妹妹？

2. instead of tempting me with the apple, she ate it herself, 她自己把苹果吃了，没有要我吃。

instead of: 代替，而不是。

哥哥想用《圣经》故事骗取苹果，妹妹没有上当，哥哥气坏了，打了妹妹，埋怨她不遵守游戏规则。

No Swear-Words

Mother: "What did your father say when he saw his

broken pipe? ”

Innocent: “Shall I leave out the swear-words, Mother? ”

Mother: “Certainly, my dear.”

Innocent: “Then I don't think he said anything.”

Notes

1. swear-words: 骂人话。
2. broken pipe: 摔破了的烟斗。
3. innocent [ˈɪnəsənt] n. 天真的人。
4. Shall I leave out the swear-words, mother?
妈妈, 我是不是不讲那些骂人话?
leave out: 省去, 删去。
5. Then I don't think he said anything.
那么, 我想他什么也没有讲。
言外之意: 爸爸讲的都是骂人话。

Should I Lie?

Mother: “Which apple do you want, Junior? ”

Junior: “The biggest one.”

Mother: “Why, Junior! You should be polite and take the little one.”

Junior: “Well, mamma, should I lie just to be polite? ”

Note

Well, mamma, should I lie just to be polite?

那么, 妈妈, 为了讲礼貌, 我就该说谎吗?

What Do You Repair Boots with?

A small boy stood in the entrance to the cobbler's shop watching the man at work.

"What do you repair boots with, mister?" he suddenly asked.

"Hide," replied the cobbler sharply.

"E-r-r, eh?" asked the boy.

"I said hide," replied the cobbler impatiently.

"What for?" the boy insisted, somewhat surprised.

"Hide! The cow's outside," sighed the man.

"Don't care if it is. Who's afraid of a cow, anyway?" said the youngster defiantly.

Notes

1. What do you repair boots with, mister?

先生，你用什么补鞋？

2. in the entrance to the cobbler's shop: 在皮匠店的门口。

3. hide [haɪd] *n.* 皮革，兽皮；*v.* 躲藏。

孩子以为是要他“躲藏”，因而发出E-r-r, eh之声，对皮匠的话表示不理解。

4. impatiently [im'peɪʃəntli] *ad.* 不耐烦地。

5. What for? 为什么（干吗要躲）？

6. somewhat surprised: 有点惊奇。

7. The cow's outside. 皮匠意指：牛外面的一层（牛皮）。孩子理解为：

(The cow is outside. (牛在外面))

8. sigh [saɪ] *v.* 叹气.

9. Don't care if it is. 别管它在不在外面。

10. defiantly [di'faiəntli] *ad.* 蔑视地。

I Fooled God

Little Elaine surprised her mother with this postscript to her bedtime prayer:

"And, dear Lord, please send the beautiful snow to keep the little flowers warm through the winter."

Climbing into bed, she confided to her mother:

"That's the time I fooled Him. I want the snow so I can go sliding with my new sled."

Notes

1. I fooled God.

我哄上帝。

2. postscript ['paʊsskript] *n.* 附言。

3. bedtime prayer 就寝前的祷告。

4. dear Lord: 亲爱的主。

5. to keep the little flowers warm through the winter.

让朵朵小花暖暖和和地过冬。

6. confide to sb. 向某人吐露。

7. go sliding with one's new sled. 用新小橇滑雪。

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The Price of Some Words

In order to discourage the use of objectionable words, the father had evolved a system of fines, some what after this fashion;

Hang it——One cent.

Darn it——Two cents.

Gosh——Three cents.

Gosh darn it——Five cents.

The boy who was to be reformed by this method studied the tariff with considerable interest, but it was some time before he spoke.

“Well,” he said at last, “I guess I know some words that would cost a quarter.”

Notes

1. objectionable words: 要不得的话。
2. evolve a system of fines: 规定一套罚款办法。
3. somewhat after this fashion: 大体上按照这种方式。
4. Hang it. 该死的, 他妈的。
5. Darn it. 该死。
6. Gosh. 天哪, 啊呀 (表示惊奇或用于发誓)。
7. who was to be reformed by this method: 要用这种方法对孩子进行教育。
8. tariff [ˈtærɪf] n. 价目表, 收费表。
9. I guess I know some words that would

cost a quarter.

我想我知道的那些骂人话得交两角五分 钱。
孩子仔细地研究了价目表，推算出价 目表之
外的骂人话的价格。既然Hang it 只 要交一
分钱，那么罚款两角五分钱的骂人话 的程度
之严重就可想而知了。

Who Was the Little Boy?

Jeff: "Today, on the school bus, a little boy fell off
his seat, and everybody laughed except me."

Teacher: "Who was the little boy? "

Jeff: "Me."

Notes

1. fall off one's seat: 从座位上掉下来。
2. Me. = It's me. 这个小孩就是我。

An Experienced Baby

"I hear there's a new baby over at your house, Wil-
liam," said the teacher.

"I don't think he's new," replied William, "The
way he cries shows he's had lots of experience."

Notes

1. over at your house: 在你那边的房子里。
2. The way he cries shows he's had lots
of experience.

他哭的样子说明他很有经验。

(in which) he cries是定语从句，修饰the
way.

What Would You Have Without Four Fingers?

Teacher: "How many fingers have you?"

Bobbie: "Ten."

Teacher: "Well, if four were missing, what would you have then?"

Bobbie: "No music-lessons."

Notes

1. miss [mis] v. 发现没有。
2. No music-lessons. 不上音乐课。句中省略了I would have. 老师想要学生计算十减四等于几这样一道算术题。学生很快联想到失去手指可能会给自己带来的好处, 以后再也不必为学习弹钢琴而苦恼了。

Asking for the Recipe

Bobby had been to a birthday party, and knowing his weakness, his mother looked him straight in the eye and said, "I hope you didn't ask for a second piece of cake?"

"No," replied Bobby, "I only asked Mrs. Smith for the recipe so you could make some like it and she gave me two more pieces just of her own accord."

Notes

1. ask (sb.) for the recipe. (向某人) 索取糕点制作配方。
recipe ['resipi] n. (糕饼等的) 制法,

烹饪法。

2. know one's weakness: 了解某人的弱点。

3. look sb. straight in the eye: 直盯着某人的眼睛。

4. She gave me two more pieces just of her own accord.

她又主动给了我两块。

of one's own accord: 自愿地, 主动地。

Papa Is Growing Taller All the Time

"Papa, are you growing taller all the time?"

"No, my child. Why do you ask?"

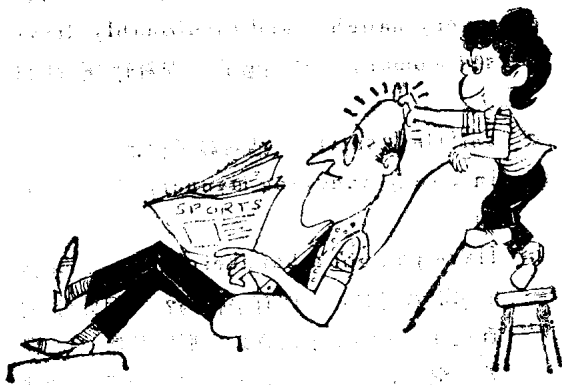
" 'Cause the top of your head is poking up through your hair."

Notes

1. all the time: 一直。

2. 'cause = because, 是口语中的省略说法。

3. poking up through your hair: 冒过头发。



Have You Got a Handkerchief

The railway coach was crowded and a none too well dressed little boy had taken a seat alongside a very haughty and fashionably dressed woman. The boy was sniffing in a very annoying manner. Finally the woman turned to the boy and asked,

“Have you got a handkerchief?”

“Yes,” replied the boy, “but I don’t lend it to strangers.”

Notes

1. railway coach [ˈreɪlwei kəʊtʃ] : 客车。
2. be crowded: (被) 挤满, 拥挤。
3. a none too well dressed little boy,
一个衣着不太好的小男孩。
4. take a seat: 坐下。
5. alongside [əˈlɒŋˈsaɪd] *prep.* 在…旁边。
6. a very haughty and fashionably dressed woman: 一位高傲的、衣着时髦的妇人。
7. sniffle [ˈsnɪfl] *v.* 抽着鼻子说话。
8. in a very annoying manner: 令人讨厌地。
9. Have you got a handkerchief? 这句话的字面意思是: “你有手帕吗?” 但此处的真正涵义不同于字面意义。那位高傲的、穿着时髦的妇人是用此话表示“批评”和“建

议”，要孩子用手帕擦去鼻涕。而孩子将这句话理解为“请求”。因此，这句话的意思等于May I use your handkerchief?

或 Could you lend me your handkerchief? .

10. Yes, but I don't lend it to strangers.
有，但是我不借给生人。

Too Full

“What's the matter, Bobby? You look mournful.”

“That's what's the matter — I'm more'n full.”

Notes

1. mournful [ˈmɔːnful] a. 令人沮丧的，悲哀的。
2. That's what's the matter.
问题就在这里。
3. I'm more'n full. = I'm more than full.
我吃得饱了。

He Wants to Be a Preacher

“Mayn't I be a preacher when I grow up?” asked the small boy.

“Of course you may, my pet, if you want to,” his mother replied.

“Yes, I do. I s'pose I've got to go to church all my life, anyway, and it's a good deal harder to sit still than to stand up and holler.”

Notes

1. Mayn't I be a preacher when I grow up?

我长大了不能当牧师吗?

2. I s'pose I've got to go to church all my life, anyway. 我想反正我这辈子是要上教堂的。

s'pose = suppose.

3. It's a good deal harder to sit still than to stand up and holler.

坐着一动不动要比站着大喊大叫难得多。

still *a.* 不动的, 静止的。

holler [*'hɒlə*] *v.* 大声叫喊。

Selfishness

The doctor of a country village had two children who were acknowledged by the inhabitants as being the prettiest little girls in the district.

While the two children were out walking one day, they happened to pass quite near two small boys, one lived in the village and the other was a visitor.

"I say," said the latter to his friend, "who are those little girls?"

"They are the doctor's children," replied the village boy. "He always keeps the best for himself."

Notes

1. selfishness [*'selfɪjnɪs*] *n.* 自私。

2. who were acknowledged by the inha-