

中学英语读物

幽默故事

李咏赋 译注
申振新

HUMOR

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前 言

这本小册子是提供给中学生及其他方面读者的一份小小的精神食粮。这些英语小幽默，三言五语者居多，篇幅较长的也不过200字左右。读者利用课余饭后，随时读上一两篇，既能得到裨益，又是一种积极的休息。

学习英语，意在培养语言技能，要注意听、说、读、写的训练，多读是重要一环。可读的东西自然很多，而幽默故事不失为一项很好的内容。许多讲英语的民族，都是很富幽默感的。从这些语言地道的小笑话中，不仅能学到英语，还能领略到异国的风俗人情，同时也是一种消遣和欣赏，寓学于乐，实为快事。

认真说来，这些短文应分为笑话和幽默小故事两类。笑话着意引人发笑，不一定有很深刻的思想内含。笑一笑，十年少。笑有益于身心健康，笑为我们的生活增加情趣。当然，上乘的笑话作品不仅仅一笑了之，笑声过后应有所思。至于幽默故事，则语言谈谐，情趣高雅，更为寓意深刻，发人深省。幽默不仅是一种情趣，它还是一种艺术，生活和工作的艺术。它常可巧妙地使棘手的问题迎刃而解，化干戈为玉帛。但愿我们的生活中更多一点幽默。

本书所选原文多无题目，为了方便，编者均加了标题，而其中文译名，为整齐划一，皆取四字。本书注释包括词

语、语法和背景知识。均以在文中出现的先后为序，不细分类。注释大体以初中学生应掌握的知识为基准。因为多是短文，况有译文为参考，注释不宜过多，读者能够理解文意即达目的。说话同相声一样，每则都有个“包袱”，对此宜认真揣摩品味，以领悟其奥妙所在。

因为成书仓促，加之我们水平有限，注释欠妥、译文失当之处在所难免，恳望读者批评指正。

编者

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1 Which is More

The minister was pleading for funds for his church. "The Lord has done so much for you," he reminded the congregation. "You should reciprocate. Each of you here today should give a tenth of your income."

One member was overcome by the sermon. "Ten percent isn't enough," he shouted. "Each of us should give a twentieth!"

Notes

1. plead [pli:d] vi. 恳求
2. congregation [ˌkɒŋɡriˈgeɪʃən] n. (某地区的) 教徒
3. reciprocate [riˈsɪprəkeɪt] vi. 报答
4. sermon ['sə:mən] n. 讲道

哪多哪少

牧师在为自己的教堂募捐。“上帝为你们做了那么多好事，”他提醒教徒们。“你们应该以德报德，今天在场的人应该捐献出十分之一收入。”

一个教徒被牧师的布道感动了。“十分之一不算多，”他喊道，“我们每个人应捐献二十分之一。”

2 Not Fair

My cousin, a fourth-grade teacher at an international school in Southeast Asia, told two unruly boys to stay after school and write their names 100 times. Later she noticed that one student had finished and left while the other was still writing feverishly. Asked what was taking him so long, the youngster replied, sobbing, "It's just not fair! His name is Hans Frank and mine is Muhammad Ali Zainuddin Bin Haji Lbrahim Abdul Rasjid."

Notes

1. unruly [ʌn'ru:li] a. 不守规矩的
2. feverish ['fi:vəriʃli] ad. 狂热地
3. sob [sɒb] vi. 呜咽

太不公平

我的表妹是教师，在东南亚一所有多国儿童就读的学校教四年级。有一次放学后，她把两个不守规矩的男孩子留下，要他们每人写一百遍各自的名字。后来，她注意到，一个学生已经写完离校，而另一个仍在奋笔疾书。表妹问他为什么写了这么长时间。孩子哭诉道：“这太不公平！他的名字是汉斯·弗朗克，我的名字叫穆罕默德·阿里·扎伊努

丁·班·哈吉·勒布拉海姆·阿卜杜勒·拉斯吉德。”

3 Sound Proof

Shortly after being promoted, our young production manager instructed us that in the future all communication with him must be in writing. The following morning he met a veteran staff member, who silently produced from his vest pocket a small card and presented it to the manager. On it were engraved two words: “Good morning.”

Notes

- 1 .being promoted, 动名词被动式, 作介词宾语。
- 2 .veteran ['vetərən] n. 富有经验的人
- 3 .engrave [in'greiv] vt. 雕上, 刻上
- 4 .sound [saund] a. 彻底
- 5 .proof [pru:f] n. (印刷) 张样

敬而戏之

我们那位提拔不久年青的生产部经理指示我们说, 以后和他谈话必须采取书面形式。第二天, 他遇到一位老练的工作人员, 这人默不做声地从外衣口袋里掏出一张小卡片, 交给了经理。上面印着两个字: “早安”。