

English Short Plays



英语短剧

陈家宁 方碧辉 编著

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编者的话

近几年来,不但社会上出现了学习英语的热潮,在广大中小学中,英语课的学习也打开了新局面。不少学校除了进行课堂教学外,还开展了各种形式的生动活泼的课外活动,排演英语短剧尤其受到广大学生的欢迎。我们长期从事英语教学工作,深知排演英语短剧对学生英语学习的补益,也有不少同行向我们索取这方面的材料,因此将我们平日为学生编写的若干英语短剧和小品重加整理,汇集成集。其中有创作,也有改写。这些短剧难易程度适合于中小学学生水平,与中小学英语课的内容有所结合,这当中就有一部分是根据教材改写的。通过排练及表演,可以直接收到巩固课堂知识的效果。语言经在京工作的英、美语言专家们审阅,形式短小活泼,适于排练。在编写过程中,我们根据一般水平读者的需要,对剧中出现的一些语言现象做了注解,重点放在句型和习惯用语上,这样,社会上自学英语的初学者,也可以以此扩大词汇量和语言方面的知识。由于我们水平有限,在剧本中可能会出现考虑不周之处,望广大读者给以批评指正。

一九八四年九月

内 容 简 介

本书包括二十多个英语短剧和小品，按由易到难的顺序排列，内容丰富有趣，语言简练，形式短小活泼，是激发学习外语的兴趣、开展英语课外活动的必备材料。中、小学生以及大学英语起始班的学生都可以从中找出适当的节目进行排演。

在编写过程中，作者照顾了中学英语课本的词汇和语法，与某些课文也有所接合，因此此书也可用做中学英语教学的辅助材料，作者对篇中所出现的习惯用语、重要句型以及重要语法现象等均做了注解，难字注有音标，以便自学阅读。

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Part One

The Hare and the Tortoise

方 碧 辉

Characters: Hare Sparrow A, B, C, D

Tortoise

Monkey

Scene: *In the open field beside a forest.*

Hare: I am little Hare.

I am white and fair.

I can run as fast as the wind.

I am the best runner in the world.

I can beat anybody in any race.

Oh, here's somebody coming.

Tortoise: My name is Tortoise. I can't run fast, because I have a heavy shell on my back. I am a very poor runner. But I can walk. I keep on walking, walking, walking and never stop. Hey, who is there?

Hare: Hello! Mr. Tortoise!

Tortoise: So it's you, my dear little Hare!

Hare: How are you, Mr. Tortoise?

Tortoise: I'm very well. Thank you. And how are you?

Hare: Fine. Thank you. What are you doing here?
Tortoise: I'm doing my morning exercises. I'm having a walk.
Hare: But how slow you are!
Tortoise: Slow? who says I am slow?
Hare: I do. You can't run; you can only walk.
Tortoise: Who says I can't run? Can you?
Hare: Of course, I can. Don't you know I'm the best runner in the world?
Tortoise: Is that so? But I don't believe it.
Hare: Let's run a race^② and then you can see how fast I can run.
Tortoise: All right. But we need a judge.
Hare: There comes Mr. Monkey. Let's ask him to help us.
Tortoise: Very well. Good morning, Mr. Monkey!
Monkey: Good morning, Mr. Tortoise and Little Hare!
Hare: Good morning, Mr. Monkey! Mr. Tortoise and I are going to run a race. Will you be our judge?
Monkey: I'll be glad to. Don't you see that house over there? Let's see which of you gets there first.
Tortoise: Ok!
Monkey: Let me stand on the hill so I can see both ends. *(He goes to the top of the hill.)*
Sparrow A: Hey, look. The Hare and the Tortoise are going to have a race!

Sparrow B: What? The Tortoise is going to have a race with the Hare? How can he win? He can never run!

Sparrow A: Just come and watch!

Sparrow C: } Yes, let's watch and cheer them.
Sparrow D: }

Monkey: Ready? Go!

(The Hare runs very quickly. The Tortoise moves very slowly and falls far behind.)

Sparrows: Come on! Come on!...

Hare: I'm already on the hill. Where is Mr. Tortoise? Ha, ha, ha! He is far, far behind. I'll take a rest under the tree.

(He lies down and soon falls asleep.)

Sparrow A: Look, the Hare has stopped under the tree.

Sparrow B: He's fallen asleep.

Sparrow C: } Look, the Tortoise's coming up.
Sparrow D: }

Sparrows: Wake up, Little Hare! Wake up! The Tortoise is catching up.

Hare: Oh, don't make a noise. I'll sleep a few minutes longer. The Tortoise can never win.

Sparrow C: But he's now ahead of you.

Hare: It doesn't matter. I'll soon catch up with him.

Tortoise: Ah, there is Little Hare. He is asleep. I'll pass him quietly.

(After a while, the Tortoise arrives at the house
over a ditch.)

Monkey: Mr. Hare! Get up. Mr. Tortoise is already
there.

Sparrows: Oh, the Tortoise has won. The Tortoise has
won. Hurrah! Hurrah!

Hare: Really?

(He jumps up and rushes to the end.)

Tortoise: Welcome, Little Hare! Now, Mr. Monkey,
tell us which of us has won the race.

Monkey: Of course, Mr. Tortoise has.

Tortoise: Thank you. Goodbye, slow Little Hare!
Goodbye, Mr. Monkey!

Monkey: Goodbye! What do you think now, Little Hare?

Hare: Well, I can run faster than Mr. Tortoise, but
now he has won.

Monkey: That is because you've been proud. Let this
be a lesson to^③ you.

Hare: I'll always remember this lesson and never be
proud again.

Monkey: Right. Remember: Pride goes before a fall!^④

注 释

① keep on 继续(进行),继续下去。

② run a race 赛跑

③ be a lesson to ... 给……一个教训

④ Pride goes before a fall 骄傲使人失败。

The Blind Men and the Elephant

方碧辉

Characters: the elephant-driver

six blind men: A, B, C, D, E and F

Scene: *A street in a small town in India.*

(When the curtain rises, the six blind men are standing by the roadside. They beg from the passengers. Before long an elephant is driven along the road. The elephant—driver is crying, “Make way, ① please. Make way, please.”)

A: Kind sir, would you please give us some food?

Driver: Sorry. I'm but an elephant driver. I have no spare food for you.

B: Didn't you say that you're an elephant driver?

Driver: Yes.

C: I hear the elephant is a huge animal, isn't it?

Driver: Yes. In fact, it's the largest animal in the world.

D: Really? What a pity we can't see it.

E: I don't care what the beast looks like if only I can feel it.

F: That's a good idea. Excuse me, Mister Driver, but may I touch your elephant?

Driver: Why? Certainly. Everyone of you can feel it if you like.

A: Thank you. It's really very kind of you. Oh, fellows, let me try first.

(A begins to feel the elephant. He happens to put his hand on the elephant side.)

A: Well, now I know all about this beast. He is like a wall.

(B begins to feel the elephant. He feels about the elephant's tusk.)

B: My brother, you're quite mistaken. He is not at all like a wall. He is round and smooth and sharp. He is more like a spear than anything else.

(C begins to feel the elephant. He happens to take hold of the elephant's trunk.)

C: Both of you are entirely wrong. Anybody who knows anything can see that this elephant is like a snake.

(D is very short and he reaches out his arms, and grasps one of the elephant's legs.)

D: Oh, how blind you are! It is very plain to me that he is round and tall like a tree.

(E is a very tall man. He happens to take hold of the elephant's ear.)

E: The blindest man ought to know that this elephant is not like any of the things you name.^② He is exactly like a huge fan.

(F feels his way for some time before he can find the elephant. At last he gets hold of the elephant's tail.)

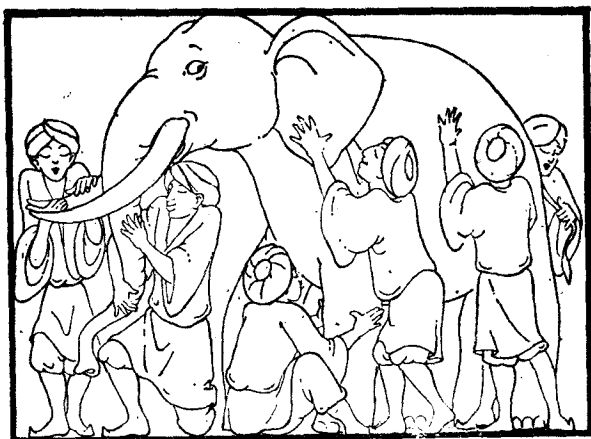
Oh, silly fellows! You surely have lost your senses. The elephant is not like a wall or a spear, or a snake, or a tree, neither is he like a fan. But any man with a little sense can see that he is exactly like a rope.

Driver: Oh, fellows! Now you've felt the beast in turn. I'm afraid I must be leaving now.

(The driver drives the elephant along.)

(The six blind men begin to quarrel about the elephant. Each repeats what he said and calls others "fool", "you silly one", "How foolish you are!", "What a liar!" and so on.③)

(The curtain falls.)



Driver: *(comes back alone and stands in front of the curtain)*
Dear boys and girls! It is not just blind men who

make such silly mistakes. People who have eyes sometimes act just as foolishly when they take a one-sided view of things. (*Withdraws*)

注 释

- ① Make way 让路给 (for)
- ② name vt. 说, 说出
- ③ and so on 等等

Mr. Russell, The Fox

(from an English folk tale)

陈家宁

Characters: Cockie Lockie
Henny Penny
The Cat
The Duck
The needle
The stone
four little mice

When the curtain rises, the stage is empty, then Cockie Lockie and Henny Penny come to the stage in a cart drawn by four little mice.

Cockie Lockie: (sings)
Now, mice be ready!
And cart, run well!
How will our journey end?
Who can tell!
(enter the cat)

Cat: Where are you going, Cockie Lockie and Henny Penny?

Cockie Lockie: We are going to the house of Mr. Russell, the Fox.

Henny Penny: He has invited us to dinner.

Cat: Will you take me with you please? I

would like to ride along with you in
your beautiful cart.

Cockie Lockie: We shall be very happy, if you will ride
with us. Please get in!

*(The cat gets into the cart. The cart runs around the
stage while Cockie Lockie sings the song once more.)*

(enter the duck)

The Duck: Where are you going?

Cockie Lockie: We are going to see kind Mr. Russell,
the Fox.

Duck: Will you take me with you, please? I
would like to ride in your beautiful
cart.

Cockie Lockie: We shall be very happy, if you will
ride with us. Please get in!

*(The duck gets into the cart. The cart runs around the
stage while Cockie Lockie sings the song once more.)*

(enter the needle and the stone)

The Needle and Stone: Where are you going?

Cockie Lockie and Henny Penny: We are going to see
kind Mr. Russell, the Fox.

Needle and Stone: Please take us with you? We would like
to ride in your beautiful cart.

Cockie Lockie and Henny Penny: We shall be very happy,
if you will ride with us. Please get in!

*(They both get into the cart. The curtain draws. The
cart, which is full of people now comes in front of the cur-*