

英漢對照·注釋本

MEI GUO MIN JIA DUAN PIAN XIAO SHUO

美國短篇小說名家精選

學	習	英	文
欣	賞	名	篇
陶	冶	情	操
提	高	修	養

山西教育出版社



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## 出版说明

近年来英语试卷中阅读理解的份量明显增加，学生如果没有熟练掌握阅读技巧，缺乏大量的阅读实践，则很难在限定时间内完成答卷。但是要培养快速阅读的习惯，也非一日之功。首先应该有较好的阅读材料，重视阅读技巧的训练。本书正是针对这方面的不足和需要而出版的。

本书是把英语作为外语（EFL）或第二语言（ESL）学习的系列读物。所选文章均为简写的美国家喻户晓脍炙人口的名家名作。故事优美，语言流畅，循序渐进，由浅入深，生词复现率高，重视阅读技巧的指导和训练，有明确的速度要求，确是一套有新意的阅读教材。我国学生的阅读速度普遍较慢，为此我们编译了这套材料，并对其中的语言难点作了注释，给出参考译文，译文一般以直译为主，力求简洁、达意。书后附有部分练习答案。由于我们水平所限，错误之处，请读者指正。

**编译者**

**1988年5月**

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# TO THE READER

This book starts at the beginning-intermediate level. It ends at the intermediate level. The first story in the book will be easy for you. The stories become more difficult, and the last story is the most difficult. The vocabulary list for the first four stories has 600 words. The list for the last three stories has 1000 words. The longest sentences in the first stories have 10 words. In the last stories, they have 17 words. There is new grammar in each story.

By working on this book, you will improve your

**reading skills**

- vocabulary
- knowledge of English grammar
- writing skills

If you work on the book in a class with other students, you'll

also improve your speaking skills.

These stories were written in a more difficult form of America's most famous writers. You will read program. The materials can be used either in or out of class for pleasure reading, controlled discussion, vocabulary development, grammar reinforcement, writing practice, and of course the acquisition of reading skills.

The exercises are so designed that the student must often return to the text to check comprehension, grammar models, or vocabulary points. Further, each story is preceded by a brief biographical paragraph about the story's author, and the first reading skills exercise following the story (an exercise in skimming or scanning) often focuses the reader's attention on that paragraph. In short, a main objective of the book is to involve the reader deeply in the text of each story, and , toward that end, to present exercises that are difficult if not imprssible to complete without a thorough understanding of the text.

An answer key to the exercises is available from the publisher, Prentice — Hall, Inc. , Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632.

C. G. D.

# TO THE TEACHER

Great American stories I consists of seven careful adaptations of famous stories by classic American writers, and exercises on each story in reading skills, vocabulary, grammar, and writing.

The book is both graded and progressive—that is, the vocabulary, grammar, and internal structure of the stories increase in difficulty from the first story (which is at the beginning — intermediate level of proficiency) to the last (which is at the intermediate level). Structural, lexical, and sentence — length controls have been used throughout the book. For example, the head — word list for the four stories contains 600 words, while that used for the final three contains 1000; maximum sentence length increases from 10 words in the first story to 18 in the last; and new grammatical structures are added story by story. Words from outside the head-word lists are introduced in a context that helps make

their meaning clear; they are used again within the next 100 words of text, and then repeated at least three more times before the end of the story.

The book as a whole is designed to be incorporated into a 10 — 12 week course in ESL or EFL as part of the reading about the writers' lives before you read their stories. After each story you will find

- 2 reading skills exercises
- 3 vocabulary and grammar exercises
- 1 writing exercise

**Good luck, and good reading!**



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# THE ROMANCE OF A BUSY BROKER

adapted from the story by

O. Henry

O. Henry was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1862. His real name was William Sydney Porter. He left school at fifteen and worked at different times in a drug store, a business office, an architect's<sup>2</sup> office, and finally a bank. When he was caught taking money from his own bank, he was arrested and put in prison for three years. He had begun writing, and while he was in prison he published a book of adventure stories called *Cabbages and Kings*. He moved to New York in 1902, and it was there that he became famous for his short stories with surprise endings. He wrote hundreds of stories about the ordinary people of New York City. His most famous books include *The Four Million* and *The Voice of the City*. O. Henry died in 1910.

# I

Pitcher had worked for many years in the office of Harvey Maxwell, the stockbroker. Pitcher was a quiet man<sup>3</sup>. He didn't usually let his face show his feelings<sup>4</sup>. But this morning he looked surprised — and very interested. Harvey Maxwell had arrived energetically<sup>5</sup> as usual at 9:30. But this morning, the young lady who was his secretary had arrived with him. Pitcher watched them with interest. Harvey Maxwell didn't pay attention to Pitcher. He said only a quick "Good morning," and ran to his desk. He dug energetically into the mountain of letters and telegrams that waited for him<sup>6</sup>.

The young lady had been the stockbroker's secretary for a year. She was beautiful, and she dressed simply<sup>7</sup>. Unlike some secretaries, she never wore cheap glass jewelry. Her dress was grey and plain, but it fitted her body nicely<sup>8</sup>. With it she wore a small black hat with a green-gold flower at the side. This morning her face shone with happiness. Her eyes were bright, her face soft pink.

Pitcher, still interested, noticed that she acted differently this morning. Usually she walked straight inside to her own desk. But this morning she stayed in the outside office. She walked over near Maxwell's desk. Maxwell didn't seem to be a man anymore<sup>9</sup>. He had changed into a busy New York stockbroker. He'd become a machine of many moving parts.

"Well — what is it? Is anything wrong?" Maxwell asked his secretary. He wasn't looking at her. His eyes were on his mail. Letters and telegrams lay on his desk like snow.

"It's nothing," she said softly. She moved away with a little smile. "Mr. Pitcher," she said, coming over to him, "did Mr. Maxwell ask you to hire<sup>10</sup> another secretary yesterday?"

"Yes, he did," answered Pitcher. "He told me to get another one. I asked the secretarial school to send over a few this morning. But it's 9:45, and no one has come yet."

"I will do the work as usual, then," said the young lady,

"until someone comes to fill the place."<sup>11</sup> And she went to her desk at once. She hung up the black hat with the green-gold flower in its usual place.

Harvey Maxwell was always a busy stockbroker, but today he was even busier than usual. The ticker tape machine<sup>12</sup> began to throw out tape. The desk telephone began to ring. Men crowded into the office, buying and selling, crying and yelling<sup>13</sup>. Boys ran in and out with telegrams. Even Pitcher's face looked more alive<sup>14</sup>. Maxwell pushed his chair against the wall. He ran energetically from ticker tape to telephone, jumping like a dancer.

In the middle of all this action and yelling, the stockbroker realized that someone new had arrived. He first saw a high mountain of golden hair under a large round hat. Then he noticed some large glass jewelry. Underneath all this was a young lady. Pitcher saw that Maxwell didn't know who she was. He came forward to explain. "Here is the lady from the secretarial school," Pitcher said to Maxwell. "She came for the job."

Maxwell turned around with his hands full of papers and ticker tape. "What job?" he yelled. His face looked angry.

"The secretarial job," Pitcher said quietly. "You told me yesterday to call the school. I asked them to send one over this morning."

"You're losing your mind<sup>15</sup>, Pitcher! Why would I tell you a thing like that<sup>16</sup>? Miss Leslie has worked well for a whole year here. The job is hers while<sup>17</sup> she wants to stay. There is no job here, Madam! Tell the secretarial school, Pitcher. Don't bring any more of them in here!"

The lady turned to leave. Her hat almost hit Pitcher in the eye as she angrily walked past him out of the office. Pitcher thought to himself that Maxwell was getting more forgetful every day.

## II

The office became busier and busier. Orders to buy and sell came and went like birds flying. Maxwell was worried about his own stocks, too, and worked faster and harder. This was the stock market, the world of money. There was no room in it for the world of human feelings or the world of nature<sup>18</sup>.

Near lunchtime, everything quieted down. Maxwell stood by his desk with his hands full of telegrams. His pen was behind his ear. His hair stood up on his head<sup>19</sup>. Suddenly through the open window came a smell of flowers, like the thin breath of spring<sup>20</sup>. Maxwell stood still. This was Miss Leslie's smell, her own and only hers. The smell seemed to bring her before him. The world of the stock market disappeared. And Miss Leslie was in the next room—only twenty steps away.

"I'll do it now," said Maxwell softly. "I'll ask her now. Why didn't I do it long ago?"

He ran into her office. He jumped towards her desk. She looked up at him with a smile. Her face turned a soft pink. Her eyes were kind. Maxwell put his hands on her desk. They were still full of papers.

"Miss Leslie," he said, hurrying, "I only have a moment to talk. I want to say something important in that moment; Will you be my wife? I haven't had time to show you, but I really do love you. Speak quickly please — there's the telephone."

"Why — what are you talking about?" cried the young lady. She stood up and looked at him strangely.

"Don't you understand?" Maxwell asked quickly, looking back at the phone on his desk. "I want you to marry me. I've stolen this moment to ask you, now, while things have quieted down a little<sup>21</sup>. Take the telephone, Pitcher!" he yelled. "Will you, Miss Leslie?" he added softly.

The secretary acted very strange. At first she seemed surprised. Then she began to cry. But then she smiled through

her tears like the sun through rain<sup>22</sup>. She put her arm around the stockbroker's neck.

"I know now," she said. "It's this business that put it out of your head<sup>23</sup>. I was afraid, at first. But don't you remember, Harvey? We were married yesterday evening at 8:00, in the little church around the corner."

#### Notes to the text

1. stockbroker 股票经纪人

2. architect 建筑师

3. a quiet man 沉默寡言的人

4. He didn't usually let his face show his feelings. 他常常不露声色。

5. energetically 精力充沛地, 劲头十足地

6. dug... into the mountain of, ... 这里用“mountain of ...”来形容信件、电报数量之多, 所以动词用了“挖掘”。

7. and she dressed simply 她穿着朴素。simply 和下文的 plain 是同义词。

8. fitted... nicely 十分合身

9. didn't seem to be a man any more 看上去不再是个普通人了。

10. hire 雇佣

11. fill the place 补缺

12. ticker tape machine 自动收报机

13. yell 喊叫

14. alive 有生气的

15. You're losing your mind. 你的记性越来越糟了。

16. that 指上文中说的“You told me yesterday to call the school.” 全句意为: 我怎么会让你去做那样的事情?

17. while 只要。表示条件。
18. This was the stock market, the world of money... 这就是股票市场,是钱的世界。在这个世界里,没有丝毫的人情,或者说人们都丧失了人性。
19. His hair stood up on his head. 他的头发很乱。
20. like the thin breath of spring 犹如一丝春天的气息
21. I've stolen this moment... quieted down a little. 趁着现在事情少一些,我抽空来问问你。
22. But then she smiled through her tears like the sun through rain. 接着她笑了,眼里含着泪水,脸庞就像雨中的太阳。
23. "It's this business that put it out of your head." "都是因为这个差事,使你把咱们的事都忘了。"it 指他们结婚的事。

## EXERCISES

### PART I (PP. 2-3)

#### A. Reading Skill

##### Scanning for Specific Information

Read the questions below. The answer to each question can be found in the paragraph about O. Henry on page 1. Read the paragraph, looking for the piece of information that will answer each question. You do not need to understand ev-



everything in the paragraph . But you must read carefully enough to find the answer to each question. This kind of reading to find information is called *scanning*.

1. In what state was O. Henry born?
2. In what year did O. Henry leave school?
3. How many jobs did O. Henry have before he began writing?
4. Where was O. Henry when he published his first book?  
What kind of book was it?
5. What kind of stories is O. Henry most famous for?
6. What kind of people usually appear in O. Henry's stories?
7. Who was William Sydney Porter?

## **B. Reading Skill**

### **Understanding the Main Ideas**

Below are some statements about Part I of "The Romance of a Busy Broker." If the statement is true, write T beside it. If it is not true, write F, for false, and then make a true sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Pitcher was an energetic man, and his feelings could always be seen in his face.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Harvey Maxwell was a man who put great energy into his work.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The young lady with Maxwell seemed unhappy, and she dressed badly.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The young lady asked Pitcher if Maxwell had asked him to get another secretary.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The young lady went to her desk because no one from the secretarial school had arrived.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The office was quiet after Maxwell and the young lady began work.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Maxwell told the young lady from the secretarial school that the job was hers if she wanted it.

## PART II (PP. 3—5)

### C. Vocabulary

Write what happened in Part II by filling in the blanks with appropriate words.

After the lady from the secretarial school left, Maxwell became \_\_\_\_\_. He was worried about his own \_\_\_\_\_, and worked \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. There was no room for human \_\_\_\_\_ in this world of money.

But near lunch time everything \_\_\_\_\_ down. Maxwell smelled a smell of \_\_\_\_\_ through the window. It made him think of \_\_\_\_\_. "I'll do it now," he thought. And he went into Miss Leslie's \_\_\_\_\_.

She \_\_\_\_\_ when she saw him. But Maxwell was in a \_\_\_\_\_ and spoke fast. "Will you \_\_\_\_\_ me?" he asked. But Miss Leslie didn't act pleased. "What are you \_\_\_\_\_ about?" she asked. She was angry at first, but then she realized that he had forgotten about their \_\_\_\_\_. "I know now," she said. "It's this \_\_\_\_\_ that put it out of your head. We were \_\_\_\_\_ last night at the little \_\_\_\_\_ around the corner."

### D. Punctuation

Put commas(,), quotation marks(" "), question marks(?), and periods(.) in the following sentences. Make new capital letters (t — T) when necessary. Be careful. Not all the sentences need quotation marks.

*Example:*

Here is the young lady from the secretarial school said