

ENGLISH STORIES

(英汉对照)

英语故事会

会说话的企鹅



看故事学英语

讲故事练口语

青岛出版社

英语故事会

—— 会说话的企鹅 *Talking Penguin*

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前言

通过读故事学英语,这是一条实践已经证明了的有效的途径。我国老一辈英语专家很多都是通过读《一千零一夜》、《福尔摩斯探案集》等饶有趣味的故事逐渐培养起对英语的兴趣,进而步入英语的殿堂的。读故事,读到着迷处,人们往往爱不释手,欲罢不能。常言说,兴趣是最好的老师。学英语亦复如此。读英语故事,没有语法的枯燥,没有死记单词的单调;有的只是引人入胜的情节,栩栩如生的人物,睿智诙谐的语言。寓学于乐,其乐无穷。

本丛书所收的故事,都是来自世界各地。无论是欧洲的英国、德国、俄罗斯,还是非洲的尼日利亚、埃及,无论是美洲的印第安人、近邻日本、朝鲜和印度,还是南半球的澳大利亚,或多或少,都有收入。所有故事都是编者精心挑选,篇幅短小精炼,内容丰富多彩,有神话,有寓言,有童话,有幽默,有笑话;有的教读者处世做人,有的仅供读者开心一笑,有的发人深思,有的让人叹息甚至落泪。故事的主角有人们熟悉的传统的老虎、狮子、狐狸和猴子,有帝王、总统、大臣和将军,有富翁、乞丐、农民和士兵,也有美女、儿童、学生和小偷。本丛书堪称世界故事的百花园。

您可以把本书当作“疯狂英语”的素材,用以复述故事,提高口语;也可以当作“床头灯系列”,睡前给小孩或者是自己读上一篇;也可以摆放在案头桌旁,随手翻上一篇,放飞您的心情。无论您是中小學生,是大学生,还是已经踏上社会,无论您是用来参加故事大赛,用来学习英语,还是用于娱乐,本丛书定会让您开卷有益,平添几分乐趣。

本丛书英汉对照,译文力求忠实通顺。但由于时间和水平有限,疏漏之处在所难免,敬请读者批评指正。

本册编译人员分工如下:于利华,故事 1-14;曹菁,故事 15-29;于利华,故事 30-31;罗小姝,故事 32-53;杨华,故事 54-85;秦杏梅,故事 86-105;任秀巧,故事 106。



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1. Memory Loss

Two elderly gentlemen are playing cards on Saturday evening as they have done for the past 35 years. Max, the older, had been having problems remembering what cards were what, and usually needed help from his wife.

At the end of the card game Ed said to Max, “You did very good tonight. You didn’t need any help at all. Why is that?”

Max replied, “Ever since my wife sent me to that memory school, I haven’t had any problems at all.”



“Memory school? What memory school?”

Max thought for a moment, “Oh, what’s that flower that’s red with thorns? A really pretty flower. . . ?”

“A rose^注?”

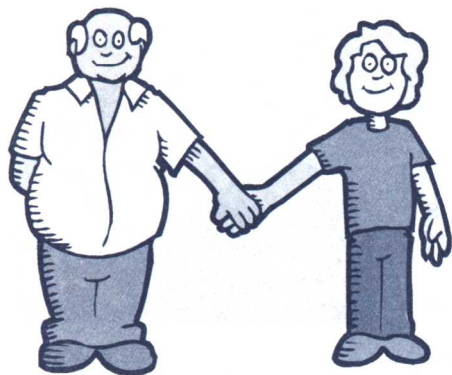
“Yeah. . . that’s it!” Max turned to his wife and mumbled, “Hey, Rose! What’s the name of that memory school you sent me to?”



注:在英语中 rose 既是玫瑰花,又是人名罗斯。



1. 失忆



周六晚上,两个老年人正在玩牌,在过去的35年里他们一直都是这样。马克斯年龄大些,记忆力不好,记不清手里拿的是什么牌,常常需要他妻子的帮助。

玩牌结束时,艾德对马克斯说:“今晚你打得不错,一点也没用别人帮忙。是什么原因啊?”

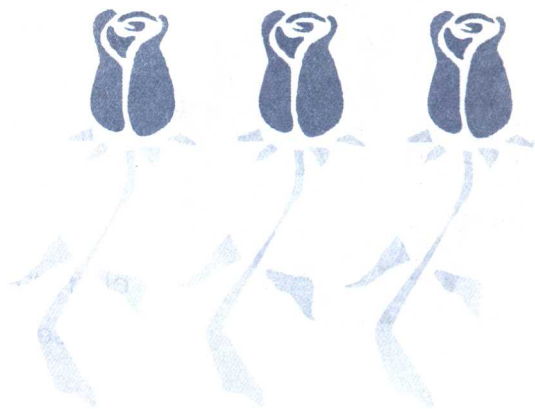
马克斯回答道:“因为妻子送我上了记忆力培训学校,从此我的记忆力就不存在问题了。”

“记忆力培训学校? 什么样的记忆力培训学校?”

马克斯想了一会儿:“噢,那种红色的、带刺的花叫什么花儿? 的确非常漂亮的花儿……”

“玫瑰?”

“啊……就是它!” 马克斯转向妻子,咕哝着,“嘿,罗斯! 你送我去的那个记忆力培训学校叫什么?”



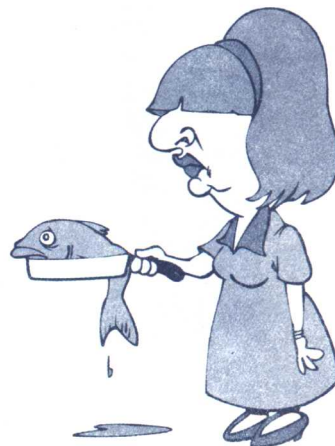


2. Ice Cream Prayer

Last week I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads, he said, "God is good. God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And liberty and justice for all! Amen!" Along with laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!" Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer." "Really?" my son asked. "Cross my heart." Then in a theatrical whisper the gentleman added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his ice cream for a moment and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and without a word walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is





for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes, and my soul is already good."



2. 冰激凌祈祷者

上周我带孩子们到餐馆吃饭,6岁的儿子问可不可以做饭前祈祷。当我们低下头时,他祈祷道:“上帝太好了,上帝是伟大的!谢谢你赐给我们食物,如果妈妈能买冰激凌作甜点的话,我会更感激你。给我们自由和正义吧!阿门!”周围的客人都笑起来,我听到一个女人说道:“这就是这个国家的问题所在。现在的孩子都不知道如何祈祷。向上帝要冰激凌!天哪,我从不这样!”听到这儿,儿子突然大哭起来,问我:“我说错了吗?上帝生我的气了?”



我抱住他,让他相信自己做了件了不起的事,上帝当然不会生他的气。这时,一位老绅士走到桌子旁。他朝我儿子眨了眨眼,说:“我碰巧知道上帝认为这是个很棒的祈祷。”“真的吗?”我儿子问。“我发誓是真的。”然后,这位绅士装模作样地低声补充道(并指向那个因她的话而引起整个事件的女人),“她从未向上帝请求冰激凌,太坏了。有时一块儿小小的冰激凌对心灵是有益的。”

当然,在进餐结束时,我给孩子们买了冰激凌。儿子凝视了一会儿自己的冰激凌,然后做了一件令我终生难忘的事:他拿起自己的圣代冰激凌,一声不吭地走过去,放到那个女人面前,一脸灿烂的笑容。“给,这是你的。冰激凌有时对心灵是有益的,我的心灵已经很好了。”





3. Do You Want Fish Heads?

A customer at Green's Gourmet Grocery marveled at the proprietor's quick wit and intelligence.

"Tell me, Green, what makes you so smart?"

"I wouldn't share my secret with just anyone," Green replies, lowering his voice, so the other shoppers won't hear. "But since you're a good and faithful customer, I'll let you in on it. Fish heads. You eat enough of them. You'll be positively brilliant."

"You sell them here?" the customer asks.

"Only \$4 a piece," says Green.

The customer buys three. A week later, he's back in the store complaining that the fish heads were disgusting and he isn't any smarter.

"You didn't eat enough," says Green. The customer goes home with 20 more fish heads. Two weeks later, he's back and this time he's really angry.

"Hey, Green," he says, "You're selling me fish heads for \$4 a piece when I just found out I can buy the whole fish for \$2. You're ripping me off!"

"You see?" says Green. "You're smarter already."





3. 你需要鱼头吗?



格林美食杂货店的一位顾客对该店老板的聪明和智慧大为惊叹。

“告诉我，格林，你为什么如此聪明？”

“我是不会与任何人分享我的秘密的。”格林压低声音答道，以防别的顾客听到。“但是既然你是个很好且忠实的顾客，我就告诉你吧。是鱼头。只要你吃大量的鱼头，肯定会变得非常聪明。”

“你这里有卖的吗？”这个顾客问道。

“一个只卖4美元，”格林说。

这位顾客买了3个鱼头。一周后，他回到店里，抱怨说鱼头很难吃，况且他也没变得更聪明。

“你吃的还不够多。”格林说。这位顾客又拿了20个鱼头回家了。两周后，他回来了，这次他真的很生气。

“嘿，格林。”他说，“你卖给我每个鱼头4美元，而我发现用2美元就可以买整条鱼。你骗我！”

“看到了吧？”格林说，“你已经变聪明了。”





4. So There

The new librarian decided that instead of checking out children's books by writing the names of borrowers on the book cards herself, she would have the youngsters sign their own names. She would then tell them they were signing a "Contract" for returning the books on time.

Her first customer was a second grader, who looked surprised to see a new librarian. He brought four books to the desk and shoved them across to the librarian, giving her his name as he did so.

The librarian pushed the books back and told him to sign them out. The boy laboriously printed his name on each book card and then handed them to her with a look of utter disgust.

Before the librarian could even start her speech he said, scornfully, "That other librarian we had could write."



4. 原来如此

新来的图书管理员决定在核对孩子们借书时,不再由她自己在借书卡上签借书人的名字,而是让孩子们自己签名。然后,她会告诉孩子们他们是在按时还书的“合同”上签字。

她的第一个顾客是个二年级的学生。他看到新图书管理员时很惊讶。这个男孩拿了4本书放到桌子上,一边把书推给图书管理员,一边告诉她自己的名字。

图书管理员把书推回去,并告诉他签上名。男孩费劲地用印刷体把名字写在每张借书卡上,然后一脸厌恶地把书递给她。

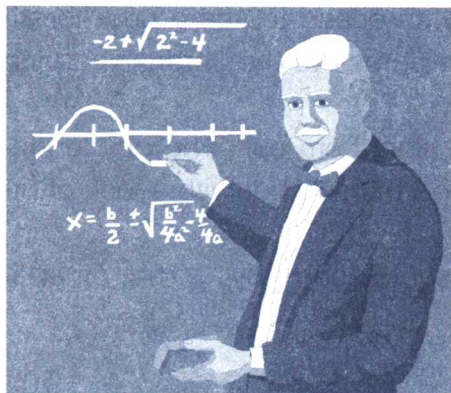
图书管理员还没来得及说话,这个男孩就挖苦道:“我们以前的那个图书管理员会写字。”





5. Virtual Reality

Every Friday after work, a mathematician goes down to the Ice Cream Parlor, sits in the second-to-last seat, turns to the last seat, which is empty, and asks a girl, who isn't there, if he can buy her an ice cream cone.



The owner, who is used to the weird, local university types, always shrugs but keeps quiet. But when Valentine's Day arrives, and the mathematician makes a particularly heart wrenching plea into empty space, curiosity gets the better of him, and he says, "I apologize for my stupid questions, but surely you know there is NEVER a woman sitting in that last stool, man. Why do you persist in asking out empty

space?"

The mathematician replies, "Well, according to quantum physics, empty space is never truly empty. Virtual particles come into existence and vanish all the time. You never know when the proper wave function will collapse and a girl might suddenly appear there."

The owner raises his eyebrows. "Really? Interesting. But couldn't you just ask one of the girls who comes here every Friday if you could buy HER a cone? Never know... she might say yes."





The mathematician laughs. "Yeah, right. How likely is THAT to happen?"



5. 虚拟现实

每个周五下班后,一位数学家都会来到冰激凌店,坐在倒数第二排,把脸转向最后一排,向一个并没有女孩坐在那儿的空位问道,能否为她买支冰激凌。

店老板习惯了当地大学的这种怪异模式,总是耸一耸肩,保持沉默。但是当情人节来临时,数学家向那个空位子做了个特别令人心痛的请求,好奇心战胜了老板,他说:“我对我所问的愚蠢问题向你道歉。但是,伙计,你当然知道,从来就没有女人坐在最后面的凳子上。你为什么要坚持问一个空位置?”



数学家回答道:“是这样的,根据量子物理学原理,空间从没真正空过,总是会形成虚拟粒子,再消失。你不知道在什么时候波动函数会衰弱,也不知道什么时候女孩会突然出现在那里。”

老板惊讶地扬起眉毛:“真的吗?很有意思。但是,难道你就不能问一下每周五都来这儿的某个女孩,能否给她买个冰激凌?说不定……她会答应。”

数学家笑了:“是的,你说得对。但是她答应的可能性有多大呢?”

