

英语故事会

—— 宁静的真谛 *The Real Meaning of Peace*

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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,除了少数选自中国之外,其他的都是来自世界各地,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:王慧芳,故事1-29;岳玉庆,故事30-42;姜雪梅,故事43-59, 78-87;刘梅,故事60-77;鞠燕娥,故事88-91。



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1. Small Frying-Pan

One morning a man was crossing a narrow bridge when he saw a fisherman on the shady bank of the deep, smooth river under him, so he stopped to watch him quietly.

After a few minutes, the fisherman pulled his line in. There was a big, fat fish at the end of it.

The fisherman took it off the hook and threw it back into the water. Then he put his hook and line in again. After a few more minutes he caught another big fish. Again he



threw it back into the river. Then, the third time, he caught a small fish. He put it into his basket and started to get ready to go. The man on the bridge was very surprised, so he





spoke to the fisherman. He said, "Why did you throw those beautiful, big fish back into the water and keep only that small one?"

The fisherman looked up and answered, "Small frying-pan."



1. 煎锅太小了

清晨,一个人过小桥时看到有个渔夫在荫凉的河岸上钓鱼,下面水静流深,他停下来静静观望。

几分钟后,渔夫抬起钓竿,钓上来一条大肥鱼。

渔夫把鱼从鱼钩上解下来扔回水里,然后把鱼钩和线重新放回了水里。几分钟后又钓到了一条大鱼,和上次一样,他又把鱼扔回了水里。第三次钓了一条小鱼,他把鱼放到篮子里就收拾准备回去了。桥上的人很好奇,就问渔夫:"你为什么把大鱼都扔掉,只留一条小鱼呢?"

渔夫抬起头回答:"煎锅太小了。"

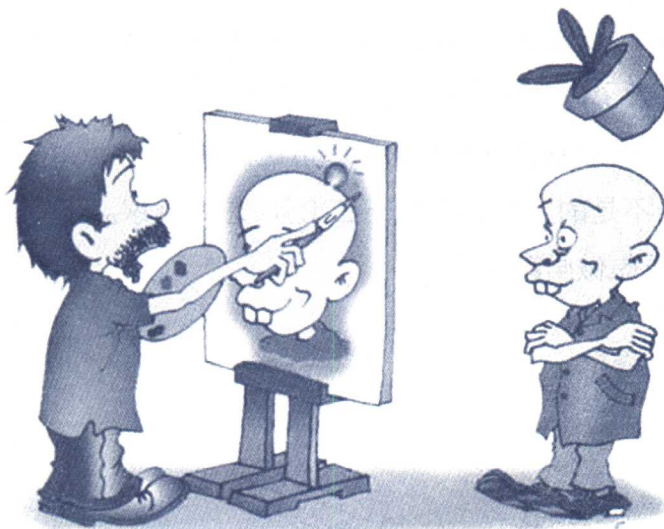




2. An Artist

An artist went to a beautiful part of the country for a holiday, and stayed with a farmer. Every day he went out with his paints and his brushes and painted from morning to evening, and then when it got dark, he went back to the farm and had a good dinner before he went to bed.

At the end of his holiday he wanted to pay the farmer, but the farmer said, "No, I do not want money — but give me one of your pictures. What is money? In a week it will all be finished, but your painting will still be here. "





The artist was very pleased and thanked the farmer for saying such kind things about his paintings.

The farmer smiled and answered, "It is not that. I have a son in London. He wants to become an artist. When he comes here next month, I will show him your picture, and then he will not want to be an artist any more, I think."



2. 画 家

一个画家到风景秀丽的乡下度假,住在一个农夫家里。每天早晨他带着颜料和画笔出门,画上一整天,天黑才回来,美美地吃上一顿就上床睡觉。

假期结束了,画家要付钱给农夫,但农夫说:"不,我不要钱——把你的画给我一张吧。钱有什么用?一周我就花光了,而你的画可以一直留在这里。"

画家听了后很高兴,很感激农夫对他的画评价这么高。

农夫微笑着回答:"不是的。我有个儿子在伦敦,想做画家。下个月他回来,我把你的画给他看,我想他就不会再想做画家了。"





3. Too Clever

A farmer who lived in a small village suffered from a severe pain in the chest. This never seemed to get any better. The farmer eventually decided that he would consult a doctor in the nearest town. But as he was a miserly person he thought he would find out what he would have to pay this doctor. He was told that a patient had to pay three pounds for the first visit and one pound for the second visit. The farmer thought about this for a long time, and then he decided to go and consult the doctor in the town.

As he came into the doctor's consulting room, he said casually, "Good morning, doctor. Here I am again." The doctor was a little surprised. He asked him a few questions, examined his chest and then took the pound which the farmer insisted on giving him. Then the doctor said with a smile, "Well, sir. There's nothing new. Please continue to take the same medicine I gave you the first time you came to see me."





3. 过于聪明

村庄里有个农夫胸口很痛，一直不见好转。他最终决定去附近的镇里看医生。但这个人很吝啬，希望尽量少花钱。听说第一次去看病要花 3 英镑，第二次只需要 1 英镑就可以。农夫考虑了很久，才决定去城里看医生。

进了医生诊疗室后，他熟人般地和医生打招呼：“早上好，医生，我又来了。”医生虽然有点吃惊，但他还是问了农夫几个问题，检查了一下胸口，收下了农夫硬塞给他的 1 英镑。然后微笑着说：“好了，先生，没什么要紧的，继续吃我上次给你开的药就行了。”



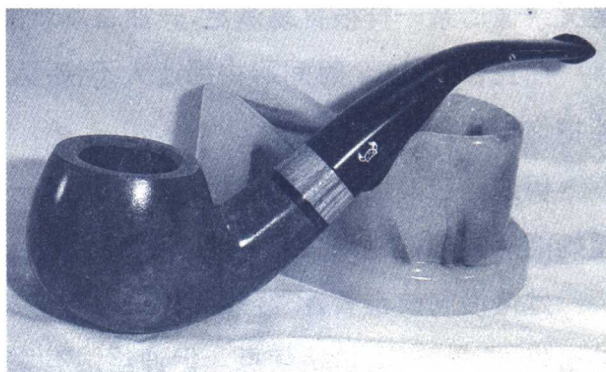


4. Stop Smoking

As she walked round the huge department store, Edith reflected how difficult it was to choose a suitable Christmas present for her father. She wished that he was as easy to please as her mother, who was always delighted with perfume.

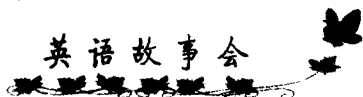
Besides, shopping at this time of the year was a most disagreeable experience: people trod on your toes, poked you with their elbows and almost knocked you over in their haste to get to a bargain ahead of you.

Partly to have a rest, Edith paused in front of a counter where some attractive ties were on display. "They are real silk," the assistant assured her, trying to tempt her. "Worth double the price." But Edith knew from past experience that her choice of ties hardly ever pleased her father.



She moved on reluctantly and then, quite by chance, stopped where a small crowd of men had gathered round a counter. She found some good quality pipes on sale — and the prices were very reasonable. Edith did not hesitate for long: although her father only smoked a pipe occasionally, she knew that this was a present which was bound to please him.





When she got home, with her small but well-chosen present concealed in her handbag, her parents were already at table having supper. Her mother was in an especially cheerful mood. "Your father has at last decided to stop smoking," she informed her daughter.



4. 戒烟了

伊迪丝在一个大商场里来回转悠,心里想着给父亲买份合适的圣诞礼物太难了。她很希望父亲像母亲一样很容易满足,一瓶香水就能让母亲很开心。

而且,每年这个时间购物都让人不快:人们会踩你的脚趾,推推搡搡,争抢便宜货差不多能把你推倒。

伊迪丝在卖漂亮领带的柜台前休息了一下。“这些都是真丝领带。”售货员向她保证,希望她能感兴趣,“绝对便宜一半。”但凭伊迪丝以往的经验来看,父亲不太喜欢领带。

她慢慢向前走着,不经意间停在了一个柜台前,只有不多的男士聚在周围。柜台上烟斗出售,质量不错,价格优惠。伊迪丝没有太多犹豫就决定买了:虽然父亲只是偶尔抽烟斗,但他肯定会喜欢这个礼物。

到家时,父母已经在餐桌旁吃晚饭了,而她精心挑选的礼物则藏在手提包中。母亲看上去心情非常愉快,告诉了女儿一个好消息:“你父亲终于下决心戒烟了。”





5. Ann Lived in the Hotel

Ann started work last summer, so she didn't have a holiday. She saved as much as she could and, in January, she booked a package trip to Rosas, in Spain. She left London airport early on the morning of the first Saturday in August. She was very excited, as this was her first trip abroad. During the flight they had a snack, and when they arrived at Barcelona airport, a special bus was ready to take them to their hotel in Rosas.

At the hotel, she checked in, and then went to her room to change before dinner. She was just ready to go downstairs, when she found that her Spanish money wasn't in her handbag. She carefully looked in all her luggage, but she couldn't find it. All she had was a small purse with ten English pound notes in it!

Ann found a place to change her English money. She had very few pesetas, and she would be here for two weeks. On her way back to the hotel, Ann bought some cheese, some bread and some oranges. When she got back, she told the manager that her doctor had told her not to eat Spanish food; she'd just have breakfast each day. This was all right, as she knew the price of hotels included breakfast.

For the rest of her holiday, Ann swam in the hotel swimming-pool, or lay on the beach and got a suntan. She also went for long walks with one of the other tourists, a Scottish girl called Jane. However, when the others went to interesting places, she





always said she wasn't well. In fact, her holiday wasn't bad, except that she was always hungry. After all, a piece of fruit for lunch, and bread and cheese for supper isn't very much... especially not for two weeks!

Late in the afternoon of their last day, Ann and Jane were on the beach. Jane asked her why she never ate with them in the hotel restaurant. The food was excellent. Ann told her all about her money problems. Jane looked at her for a minute, and then said, "But didn't you know? The price of this holiday includes absolutely everything!"



5. 安妮住旅馆

安妮去年夏天刚参加工作,一直没有休过假。她尽量省钱,于是1月份她报名,准备随团去西班牙罗萨斯旅游。8月的第一个周六清早她就飞离了伦敦机场,因为是第一次到国外旅游,安妮很兴奋。在飞机上他们吃了份点心,抵达巴塞罗那机场时,已经有专车在等着接他们去罗萨斯的宾馆了。

到宾馆登记后,她就来到了自己房间,想在晚饭前换换衣服。正要准备下楼时,安妮却发现手提包里的西班牙币不见了。她仔细找遍了所有的行李,怎么也找不到了,钱包里只有一张10英镑的钞票!

安妮找到了一个地方兑换英镑,只换了很少一点比塞塔(西班牙钱币),但她在这儿还要呆两个星期!在回旅馆的路上,安妮买了一些乳酪、面包和橘子。到了宾馆,她告诉经理医生建议她不要吃西班牙食物,每天她在这儿只吃早餐。这是可以的,因为她知道旅馆费用里包



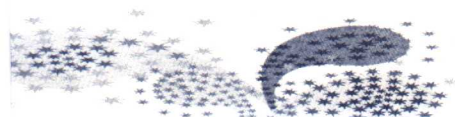


括了早餐费。

假期以后的日子里,安妮在游泳池里游泳,躺在沙滩上进行日光浴,她还跟另一个旅游者,一个叫简的苏格兰女孩一起远行。但是,当别人要到一些有趣的地方去玩时,她却总是说不舒服。假期其实不坏,只是她总感觉饥饿。毕竟,中午只吃一点水果,晚上只吃一点面包和乳酪是不够的,尤其还是两个星期都是这样!



假期最后一天的下午,安妮和简躺在沙滩上。简问她为什么从不跟他们一起在旅馆的餐厅里吃饭。那里的饮食真是好极了!安妮把自己缺钱的事全部告诉了她。简看了她一会儿,然后说:“但是难道你不知道?这次度假的费用是全包呀!”





6. A Nun in the Bar

John is sitting outside his local pub one day, enjoying a quiet pint and generally feeling good about himself, when a nun suddenly appears at his table and starts decrying the evils of drink.

"You should be ashamed of yourself young man! Drinking is a Sin! Alcohol is the blood of the devil!"

Now John gets pretty annoyed about this, and goes on the offensive.

"How do you know this, Sister?"

"My Mother Superior told me so."

"But have you ever had a drink yourself? How can you be sure that what you are saying is right?"

"Don't be ridiculous—of course I have never taken alcohol myself."

"Then let me buy you a drink—if you still believe afterwards that it is evil I will give up drink for life."

"How could I, a nun, sit outside this public house drinking?!"

"I'll get the barman to put it in a teacup for you, then no one will ever know."

The nun reluctantly agrees, so John goes inside to the bar.

"Another pint for me, and a triple vodka on the rocks," then he lowers his voice and says to the barman, "and could you put the vodka in a teacup?"

