

英语故事会

—— 生命的奖牌 *The Medal of Life*

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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,其余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,有的发人深醒,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:曹华,故事1-4;马丽,故事5-27;宋礼娟,故事28-45;张桂云,故事46-72;周莉,故事73-83;任秀巧,故事84-91;应慧,故事92-95;鞠燕娥,故事96;罗小姝,故事97。



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1. The Story of the Farmer and His Donkey

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway and it just wasn't worth to retrieve the donkey. So, he decided to bury it!

He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly, then slowly he quieted down till nothing more was heard.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well, and was astonished at what he saw. With every shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey would shake it off and take a step up!

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off!

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells by not stopping, never giving up, shaking it off, and taking a step up!





1. 农夫和驴子的故事

一天,一个农夫的驴子掉进了井里。这头牲畜凄惨的叫声持续了几个小时,而农夫始终没想到办法救他出来。最后,农夫想,这牲畜年岁已大,不值得一救,而这口井也该填起来了。于是,他决定把驴子埋在井下!

他请来所有的邻居帮忙。他们都拿着铁铲往井里铲土。刚开始,驴子意识到了正在发生的事,发出惨烈的叫声。渐渐地,驴子安静下来,井下没有了声音。



又铲了几下土后,农民看了看井底,大吃一惊。每有一铲土落在驴背上,驴子便摇动身子将土甩掉,然后往上迈一步!

农夫的邻居们不停地往驴子身上铲土,而驴子则不停地甩掉身上的土并往上走。很快,大家惊奇地看到驴子从井沿上迈出来,跑走了!

生活也会往你身上铲土,各种各样的土。而逃离深井的办法就是不断地甩掉身上的土,往上迈一大步。我们遇到的每个困难都是一块垫脚石。只有不断地甩掉身上的土,不断地前进,永不放弃,才能逃离生活的深井。





2. A Talking Frog Is Cool

A man was crossing a road one day when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He bent over, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket.

The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will tell everyone how smart and brave you are and how you are my hero." The man took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it, and returned it to his pocket.

The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will be your loving companion for an entire week."

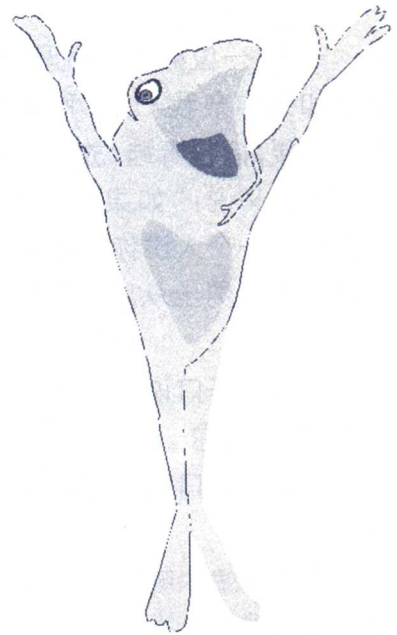
The man took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it, and returned it to his pocket.

The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you for a year and do ANYTHING you want."

Again, the man took the frog out, smiled at it, and put it back into his pocket.

Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess that I'll stay with you for a year and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?"

The man said, "Look, I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a





talking frog is cool. ”



2. 会说话的酷蛙

一天，一位男士正过马路，这时一只青蛙来到他面前，说：“如果你亲我一下，我就会变成一个美丽的公主。”男士弯下腰，捡起青蛙，放进了口袋里。

青蛙又说：“如果你亲我一下使我变成美丽的公主，我会对每一个人讲你是多么聪明英勇，并且告诉他们你是我的英雄。”男士从口袋里拿出青蛙，朝它笑了笑，又放进了口袋。

青蛙又开口说：“如果你亲我一下使我变成美丽的公主，我愿意做你一周的情人。”

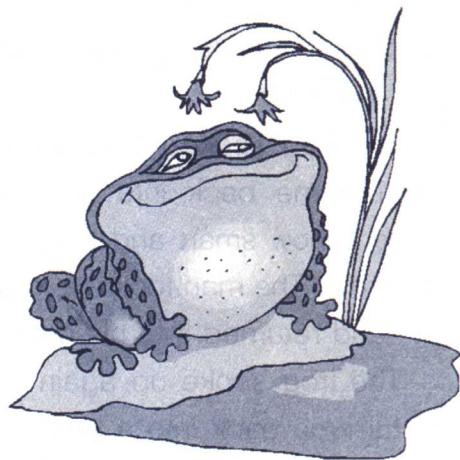
男士又从口袋里拿出青蛙，朝它笑了笑，又放进了口袋。

青蛙开始大喊起来：“如果你亲我一下使我变成美丽的公主，我愿意和你待一年，你让我做什么我就做什么。”

又一次，男士从口袋里拿出青蛙，朝它笑了笑，又放进了口袋。

最后，青蛙问道：“你是怎么回事？我已经告诉过你了，我是一个美丽的公主，愿意和你待一年，做你让我做的任何事情。你为什么还不亲我？”

男士回答说：“你瞧，我是一个工程师。我没有时间交女朋友，不过有一只会说话的青蛙倒是够酷的。”





3. An Episode in the Train

Michael and Derek are good friends, but they like to pull each other's legs sometimes. One day during the holidays they decided to go to London together. They went to the station and bought their tickets. When the train came in, Michael boarded it first and, without knowing it, dropped his ticket on the platform as he got into the carriage. Derek, who was close behind, saw the ticket fall and quickly picked it up. Without a word to his friend, he put it in his pocket.

After they had been in the train a little while, they heard the ticket inspector coming down the corridor, shouting, "Ticket, please!" Michael looked for his and of course couldn't find it.

"Oh dear, I can't find my ticket, Derek," he said.

"Have another look, Michael; it must be somewhere," said Derek. "No, I can't find it anywhere. Whatever shall I do?"

"Perhaps you had better hide under the seat; then the inspector won't know you are here."

So Michael crawled under the seat as far as he could and lay perfectly still. Presently





the door opened, and in came the inspector. "Tickets, please," he said.

Derek handed him two tickets, and said, "This is mine. The other belongs to my friend, who prefers to travel under the seat."



3. 火车上的插曲

迈克尔和德雷克是好朋友,但有时候他们喜欢捉弄对方。假期中的一天,他们决定一块儿去伦敦。他们到车站买好了车票。火车进站后,迈克尔先上了车。他走进车厢时,不小心将自己的车票掉在了月台上。德雷克紧跟着他,看到车票掉了就赶快捡了起来,但他没告诉朋友,而是不动声色地将票装进了自己的口袋。

上车不久,他们听到查票员沿着车厢过道在查票:"请出示车票!"迈克尔四处翻找,当然找不到他的票。

"天哪,我的车票找不着了,德雷克。"他说道。

"再找一遍,迈克尔,一定在什么地方。"德雷克说。

"不,没有,我哪儿都找遍了,我该怎么办呢?"

"你最好藏在座位下面,那样查票员就不会知道你在这儿了。"

于是,迈克尔就尽量匍匐在座位下面,一动也不敢动。门很快打开了,查票员走了进来。"请把票拿出来。"他说道。

德雷克递给他两张票,说道:"这张是我的,另一张是我朋友的,他更喜欢呆在座位下面旅行。"





4. Smarter Than You Think...

A woman was out golfing one day when she hit her ball into the woods. She went into the woods to look for it and found a frog in a trap.

The frog said to her, "If you release me from this trap, I will grant you 3 wishes."

The woman freed the frog and the frog said, "Thank you, but I failed to mention that there was a condition to your wishes, that is, whatever you wish for, your husband will get 10 times more or better!"

The woman said, "That would be okay," and for her first wish, she wanted to be the most beautiful woman in the world.

The frog warned her, "You do realize that this wish will also make your husband the most handsome man in the world, an Adonis that women will flock to."

The woman replied, "That will be okay because I will be the most beautiful woman and he will only have eyes for me."

So, KAZAM—she's the most beautiful woman in the world!

For her second wish, she wanted to be the richest woman in the world. The frog said, "That will make your husband the richest man in the world and he will be ten times richer than you." The woman said, "That will be okay because what is mine is his and what is his is mine."

So, KAZAM — she's the richest woman in the world!

The frog then inquired about her third wish, and she answered, "I'd like a mild heart





attack.”



4. 聪明超乎你想像

一天,一位女士打高尔夫球不小心将球打进了树林里。她走进林里找球,却发现一只青蛙被困在陷阱里。

青蛙对她说:“如果你放我出去,我愿意满足你三个愿望。”

女士将青蛙解救出来,青蛙说:“谢谢。不过我忘了告诉你,我满足你的愿望都是有条件的,那就是不管你希望得到什么,你的丈夫都将得到十倍甚至更多的好处。”

女士回答说:“那好啊。”她的第一个愿望是成为世界上最美丽的女人。

青蛙提醒她:“你必须明白,这个愿望同样会使你的丈夫成为世界上最英俊的男人,成为众女子追求的美男子阿多尼斯。”^注

女士回答说:“这没关系,因为一旦我成为世界上最美丽的女人,他不会把别的女人放在眼里的。”

于是,随着青蛙一句咒语,她变成了世界上最美丽的女人!

她的第二个愿望是成为世界上最富有的女人。青蛙对她说:“这同样会使你丈夫成为世界上最富有的男人,并且他会比你富有十倍。”女士答道:“这没关系,因为我的就是他的,他的也是我的。”

于是,随着青蛙一句咒语,她变成了世界上最富有的女人!

最后,青蛙问她的第三个愿望是什么,女士回答道:“我希望患有轻度的心脏病。”

注:阿多尼斯是希腊神话中被阿佛罗狄忒所恋的美少年,常用来指很英俊的年轻男子。





5. Changing Seat

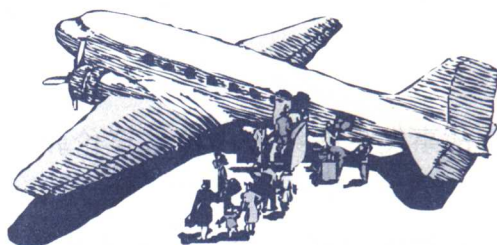
This story took place on a British Airway flight between Johannesburg and London.

A White woman, about 50 years old, was seated next to a black man. Obviously disturbed by this, she called the air Hostess.

“Madam, what is the matter?” the Hostess asked. “You obviously do not see it then?”

she responded. “You placed me next to a black man. I do not agree to sit next to someone from such a repugnant group. Give me an alternative seat.” “Be calm please,” the Hostess replied. “Almost all the places on this flight are taken. I will go to see if another place is available.”

The Hostess went away and then came back a few minutes later. “Madam, just as I thought, there are no other available seats in the economy class. I spoke to the captain and he informed me that there is a seat in the business class. All the same, we still have one place in the first class.” Before the woman could say anything, the Hostess continued, “It is not usual for our company to permit someone from the economy class to sit in the first class. However, given the circumstances, the captain feels that it would be scandalous to make someone sit next to someone so disgusting.” She turned to the black guy, and said, “Therefore, Sir, if you would like to, please





collect your hand luggage. A seat awaits you in first class.” At that moment, the other passengers who were shocked by what they had just witnessed stood up and applauded.



5. 换 位

故事发生在约翰内斯堡至伦敦的一架英国航班上。

一位大约 50 岁的白人妇女坐在一位黑人旁边。很明显她对这种安排很反感，她叫来空姐。“女士，您有什么事吗？”空姐问道。“你难道没看到吗？”这位女士回答道，“你把我安排到了一个黑人旁边。我不想坐在一位令人讨厌的异族旁边。给我换个位子。”“请少安毋躁，”空姐回答道，“本次航班几乎所有的位子都有人坐了。我去看看还有没有空位。”



过了几分钟空姐回来了。“女士，正如我刚才估计的，经济舱里已经没有空位了。我把此事报告了机长，他告诉我商务舱里还有一个空位，头等舱里也有一个。”没等这位女士插话，空姐继续说道：“我们公司很少允许经济舱里的客人坐到头等舱里的。但是今天情况特殊，机长认为把客人安排在如此讨厌的人身旁是一种侮辱行为。”她转身对黑人说，“所以，先生，如果你愿意，请收拾你的手提箱，头等舱里为你准备好了位子。”目睹了这一场面并感到震惊的其他乘客这时纷纷站起来热烈鼓掌。





6. Spend All

Mr. Black gave his wife money every Friday evening, but she always spent it before the next Wednesday, so that for the next three days she had none.

Every Tuesday evening Mr. Black asked her, "But what did you spend all that money on?" and she always answered, "I don't know."

One Friday Mr. Black brought home an exercise book and pencil and gave them to his wife with her money. "Now look!" he said to her, "When you get money from me, write it down on this page, and on the opposite page write down what happens to the money."

When Mr. Black came home the next Tuesday, his wife came to him and showed him the book. "I have done what you told me," she said happily. On one page she had written, "Friday, 29th June, I got £ 18 from John," and on the opposite page, "Tuesday, 2nd July. I have spent it all."



6. 全花光了

布莱克先生每星期五的晚上给她妻子钱,可她总是在下个星期三之前就把钱花光了。所以在后三天里她手里便不名一文了。

每星期二的晚上布莱克先生问她:“你花那些钱买什么东西啦?”她老是回答:“我不知道。”

又一个星期五的晚上,布莱克先生回家后将一个本子、一支笔和要给的钱一起交给了妻子,并说道:“你听着,我给你钱时,记在这页上,在背面那页上记下这些钱都到哪儿去了。”

接下来那个星期二的晚上,布莱克先生回到家里,妻子把本子拿给他看。她高兴地说:“我按你说的去做了。”一页上她写着:“6月29日,星期五,约翰给了我18英镑。”背面那一页写着:“7月2日,星期二,我全花光了。”

