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胡敏 读故事 记短语

[美] Scott Linder 著
陈采霞 译

高阶英语短语

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The Story

The new guy!

William C. Reilly always thought that he was a **big shot**! When Marcus Trubody came in for a **bite to eat**, however, everyone felt that it was like a **breath of fresh air**.

William pretended it was **no big deal**, but then he saw things that were **a bit of a shock**. First a **couple of** kids who usually ran when they saw him, walked right past him. Then, when he was waiting in a **blind alley** for townsfolk to greet him, no one appeared. William just stood there in the dark, where no **beam of light** could enter. Finally, when the local **clock watcher** failed to tell the time as William walked by, William knew that he had to fight this **break with tradition**.

Five minutes later, William burst into the café like a **blast of wind**. Marcus didn't even flinch. Instead he picked up **the bundle of papers** and prepared to leave.

"I sense a **cloud of frustration**." He said to the town clerk, "I need a **change of pace**. I heard there was a **big sale** next door. I'll be over there if anyone needs me."

"There won't be anyone needing you any more." William said.

That was when a sudden **column of water** flew on to William. He fell to the ground, knocking down a **cluster of grapes**. Stunned, he looked up to see Marcus Trubody over him.

"I got a **bunch** more where that comes from!" Marcus said. "I don't take kindly to threats. But I'm building a **crew of** roughnecks to work with me. You're welcome to join."

Still surprised and wet, William realized that he was a **babe in arms** compared to Marcus Trubody. He stood up, extended his hand and said.

"Welcome to town. Let's hear about that offer!"

本课短语

a babe in arms (= a babe in the woods)	天真幼稚的人, 涉世未深的人, 没有经验的人
a beam of (light)	一束(光)
a big deal	至关重要的大事, 了不得的事情; 要人, 名人
a big shot	大人物
a bit (of)	有点, 些许
a big sale	大减价
a bite to eat	一口食物, 少量食物
a blast of (wind)	一阵(风)
a blind alley	死胡同; 绝境, 绝路, 僵局
a break with (the tradition)	对(传统)的背离
a breath of fresh air	使人耳目一新的人, 带来新鲜感的东西; 新鲜的刺激
a bunch of	一束, 一串, 一群
a bundle of	一包
a change of pace	节奏的改变
a clock watcher	老是看钟等下班(或下课等)的工人(或学生)
a cloud of	一大群; 一大片
a cluster of	一串, 一束; 一群, 一组
a column of water	一个水柱
a couple of	一对, 一双; 几个
a crew of	一组(或一班、一队)工作人员

故事译文

新来的家伙!

威廉·C·赖利总认为他是个大人物! 然而当马库斯·特鲁博迪进来吃一点儿东西时, 大家都感觉是一种**新鲜的刺激**。

威廉假装没有什么**大事**, 可后来他却发现了一些**有点儿**让人吃惊的事情。首先, **几个**从前一看见他就跑的孩子这次就在他身边走了过去。然后, 当他在一条**死胡同**等着市民跟他打招呼时, 却没有一个人出现。威廉就那么一直在黑暗中站着, 那里**一束光**也进不来。最后, 当威廉经过时当地那个**老是看钟等待下班的工人**却说不出时间来, 这时威廉才明白他必须与这种**背离传统的事情**做斗争。

五分钟后, 威廉像**一阵风**似地跑进了咖啡馆。马库斯甚至都没有退缩, 相反他拿起**一包**文件准备离开。

“我感觉很失望,” 他对这位城市职员说道, “我需要**改变一下节奏**, 我听说隔壁正在**大减价**, 如果有人需要我, 我这就过去。”

“不会再有人需要你啦!” 威廉说。

就在这时, 突然有个**水柱**飞到了威廉身上。他倒在地上, 打翻了一串葡萄。震惊之余, 他抬头看见马库斯·特鲁博迪在他上面。

“刚才出来的那种东西我还有**一串**呢!” 马库斯说, “我不喜欢被人威胁, 我正在发展**一帮流氓**跟我一起干, 欢迎你加入。”

惊魂未定、浑身是水的威廉意识到和马库斯·特鲁博迪相比他不过是个**涉世未深的人**。他站起来, 伸出手说道:

“欢迎来到城里, 现在让我们来听听那个提议!”

◆ 2. a crowd of – a knight in shining armor

The Story

An all-weather friend

A **great many** women would never have lasted as long as Sarah Wilding did. She had been widowed twice, left at the altar once, and even abandoned in a **crowd of** aborigines. Now she lived alone on the north end of a barren island in Ireland. And perhaps it was because she was no longer waiting for a **knight in shining armor** that she truly had a **heart of gold**. She was a **far cry from** the women in town, but only one child knew this. That was Emily, the daughter of Mrs. Wilding's maid.

Emily had spent a **good deal of** time at the home on the island before she first met Mrs. Wilding. She kept to herself mostly and even Emily's mother had only really talked to her a **handful of** times. There was a **heap of** tales about Mrs. Wilding. So when Emily first met her, she was a bit scared. When a **gust of wind** blew Mrs. Wilding's dress, Emily even screamed. The wind made Mrs. Wilding look like a terrible witch.

"Aye now, come there lass. You know there isn't a **grain of truth** to the tales they tell about me in town!" said Mrs. Wilding as she comforted Emily. "But I can tell you a **host of** stories about them that are true!"

And with that, Emily was won over. Her **fit of** fear passed and Mrs. Wilding became like a grandmother to her. Soon she spent many hours with Mrs. Wilding. Minutes became like **drops in the ocean**, as their relationship grew deeper and deeper.

When Emily was older and Mrs. Wilding became sick, Emily returned to take care of Mrs. Wilding.

"Ah, so you aren't a **fair-weather friend** then!" said Mrs. Wilding when Emily returned.

"No ma'am. I'm an all-weather friend!"

本课短语

a crowd of	许多;一大群
a drop in the ocean	沧海一粟
a fair-weather friend	酒肉朋友,不是患难之交
a far cry from	和...相距很远;和...大相径庭
a fit of	突发一阵,阵发
a good (或 great) deal (of)	许多,大量
a grain of truth	一点儿可信的东西,一丝真理
a great many	许多
a gust of wind	一阵狂风
a handful of	一把;少数,少量
a heap of	一大堆
a heart of gold	金子般的心,美好的心灵
a host of	一大群,许多
a knight in shining armor	[讽](尤指对妇女)像中世纪骑士般彬彬有礼的男子

故事译文

患难之交

许多女人都不会像萨拉·怀尔丁那样那么有耐力。她两次守寡,一次在教堂婚礼上被遗弃,甚至被抛弃在一帮土著居民当中,现在她独自一人生活在爱尔兰一座荒岛的最北边。也许是因为她不再等待一个**像中世纪骑士般彬彬有礼的男子**的出现,她才真地有了一颗**金子般的心**。她和城里的女人**有很大的差别**,但只有一个孩子知道这一点,那就是爱米莉,怀尔丁夫人佣人的女儿。

首次见到怀尔丁夫人之前,爱米莉在岛上的家中已经生活了**很长**一段时间。她一般不与人交往,就连爱米莉的母亲也只和她说过**很少**几次话。关于怀尔丁夫人的传说有**一大堆**,因此当爱米莉第一次见到她的时候,她是有点害怕的。**一阵狂风**吹起了怀尔丁夫人的裙子,爱米莉甚至叫了起来,因为那阵风使怀尔丁夫人看起来像个可怕的巫婆。

“好了,小姑娘,到这边来。你知道城里那些关于我的传闻没有**一点儿可信的东西!**”怀尔丁夫人安慰爱米莉说,“但我可以告诉你**许多**关于他们的真实故事!”

听到这话,爱米莉被怀尔丁夫人说服了,她心中的**阵阵**恐惧也消失了,对她来说怀尔丁夫人成了奶奶一样的人物,很快她就和怀尔丁夫人呆了好几个小时。随着他们的关系越来越深,漫长的时间成了**沧海一粟**。

当爱米莉长大成人,怀尔丁夫人生病之后,爱米莉回来照顾起了怀尔丁夫人。

“啊,这么说你不是个**酒肉朋友**啰!”爱米莉回来时怀尔丁夫人说。

“不是,夫人,我是一个**患难之交!**”

◆ 3. a large amount of – a matter of time

The Story

A desert walk

When Jack's car ran out of gas in the desert, **a myriad of** thoughts ran through his head. First, he didn't even have **a loaf of bread**. Second, nor did he have any water. Third, he was **a long way off** from anything. And without his cell phone, it didn't matter that he could have been just a phone call away from help. It was only **a matter of time** before he would die.

And so he began walking down the road. After only **a quarter of an hour** walking under the hot desert sun, he began dreaming of **large amounts of** water. And when **a million** other **things** could have been on his mind as well, he thought back to his wife. They had just separated over **a number of** irreconcilable differences. And she had always been too much of **a live wire** for him. It had always been only **a question of time** before their marriage would fail. But now, about to die, he began to think that he had been **a lucky dog** to have such an interesting wife.

She had told him **a million times** that she was good for him. Now he knew that she had been so. If only they were still together!

As he continued walking, Jack noticed **an odd pile of** stones. He stopped. They could be covering **a multitude of** things, but Jack knew that it was **a must** for him to see if it was water. In **a matter of** minutes he had removed the rocks from what looked like an old bag. As he opened it, Jack shouted in relief. It was water: enough to last the rest of the day. Now he could safely get back to town.

Back in town, Jack called his wife.

本课短语

a large amount of (或 large amounts of)	许多,大量
a live wire	载电线,火线;活跃分子,富有进取心的人
a loaf of bread	一个(或一块)面包
a long way off	还有好长一段距离,还早着呢
a lucky dog	幸运儿
a matter of time	时间问题
a matter of	…问题;(表示数量)近似量
a million things	一百万件事情,很多事情(通常想说某人很忙)
a million times	一百万次,很多次
a multitude of	一大批,大量,许多
a must	必要条件,必不可少的事物
a myriad of	大量的,无数的
a number of	若干,许多
a pile of	一堆,一叠;一大堆,大量
a quarter of an hour	一刻钟
a question(或 matter) of time	迟早的事

故事译文

沙漠之旅

当杰克的车在沙漠中汽油用完时,他的脑子里冒出了**许多**问题。首先,他甚至连一块**面包**都没有了。其次,水也用完了。再其次,他离目的地**还早着呢**。由于没有带移动电话,他就是离救援只差打一个电话也无济于事,他的死只是个**时间问题**。

因此他开始沿路前行。在沙漠的骄阳下只走了一**刻钟**,他就开始梦想着有**大量的**水。尽管心中可能有**许多**其他的事情,他还是想起了妻子。由于**许多**不可调和的矛盾,他们刚刚分居了。对他来说,她总是太**活跃**,他们的婚姻破裂一直就是**迟早的事**。可是现在,死之将至,他开始认为有这么个有意思的妻子,他真是**个幸运儿**。

她告诉他**许多次**她对他挺有用,现在他知道她的确如此。要是他们还在一起就好了!

继续往前走的时候,杰克注意到了一**堆**奇怪的石头。他停下脚步,这些石头可能覆盖着**许多**东西,但杰克知道他**必须**弄清楚那是不是水。**大约**几分钟之后,他把石头搬走了,里面看起来像是个旧袋子,打开一看,杰克如释重负地叫了起来,原来是水:足够应付那天剩下的时间。现在他可以安全地回到城里啦!

回到城里,杰克给妻子打了个电话。

◆ 4. a rainy day – a wealth of

The Story

Accepting an award

As Elizabeth walked to the stage to accept her prize, **swarms** of people stood up to shake her hand. Many even stood up to give her a **standing ovation**. She was overwhelmed and looked for a **shoulder to cry on**. She knew this wasn't the time, however, and reached the final **stretch of walkway**.

On stage she was given the microphone for her acceptance speech. The announcer gave her a **strip of tissue** to wipe her eyes. Elizabeth replied that she needed a **stack of tissue boxes** to do that—she was so happy! Finally calming down, Elizabeth smiled and pulled out a **sheet of paper**. Camera flashes were **constant** and she wondered how many **rolls of film** the photographers were going through. No matter. She needed to say something.

She first commented that she had a **wealth of** other people to thank. Instead, however, she said that her parents had always thought acting was a **waste of time**. She even had a special bank account from them in case of a **rainy day**! But now, after a **series of** plush roles and a good **slice of** luck, she had already earned a **set of** prestigious awards. All of her acting classes had not been a **waste of money**. The crowd laughed. Elizabeth's **silvery tongue** had won them over.

In conclusion, Elizabeth encouraged young actresses to persevere, work hard in the beginning, and make the most of even the smallest parts. "**A stitch in time saves nine!**" She said to another laugh from the crowd. And then she walked off the stage to be interviewed in the rear of the stage.

本课短语

a rainy day	雨天;可能碰到的困难日子(尤指财政拮据)
a roll of film	一卷胶卷
a series of	一系列的,一连串的
a set of	一套,一副,一组
a sheet of paper	一张纸
a shoulder to cry on	患难时可以依靠的人
a silver tongue (或 silvery tongue)	有很好的口才,口若悬河
a slice of	一片,一部分
a standing ovation	起立欢呼,起立鼓掌
a stack of	一堆,一摞
a stitch in time saves nine	小洞不补,大洞吃苦;亡羊补牢
a stretch of	一大片,一段
a strip of	一条
a swarm of	一群,一大批;(~s of)许多,大量
a waste of money	钱的浪费,浪费钱
a waste of time	时间的浪费,浪费时间
a wealth of	丰富的,大量的



故事译文

领 奖

当伊丽莎白走向讲台领奖的时候,许多人都站起来和她握手,许多人甚至站起来给她鼓掌。她很受感动,想找个患难时可以依靠的人。但她知道这不是时候,所以走到了走道的最后一段。

一到讲台上便有人递给她麦克风让她发表领奖演说。主持人给她一条手巾纸让她擦眼泪,伊丽莎白则说她要一堆纸盒才够——因为她太高兴啦!等到终于平静下来,伊丽莎白笑着抽出一张纸。照相机开始不停地闪烁,她不知道摄影师们用了多少卷胶卷。管它呢!她得说点什么。

她首先解释说她有一大堆的人要感谢。但是反过来,她说她父母一直认为演戏是浪费时间,他们甚至还给她开了一个特殊的银行账号以备她有不时之需!但是现在,由于扮演了一系列成功的角色,加上一部分好运,她已经获得了一组大奖。她上的表演课都不是白花钱。人们笑了,伊丽莎白的好口才征服了他们。

最后,伊丽莎白鼓励青年女演员要锲而不舍,开始时要多下功夫,哪怕是最不起眼的角色也要充分利用。“小洞不补,大洞吃苦!”她说,人们又爆发出一阵笑声。最后她走下讲台,到讲台后面接受采访。

◆ 5. a wet blanket – accede to

The Story

The leader of a country? No big deal!

When Mike McGee **acceded to** the throne of Palador, he had no idea that it would soon be a **white elephant**! He quickly learned that while he had a **great range of** power, there was no way to use it. He could rule the country above all others, for example, but he could no longer **abandon himself to** any of his former pleasures, especially publicly. There were simply a **great variety of** things he could no longer do.

When Mike was **absent from** several key meetings, his staff called him **absent-minded**. When he refused to partake wholeheartedly in the hot discussions of the moment, they told him to stop being a **wet blanket**. But he was just not happy! He had to **abstain from** sex, not take part in the **abuse of** any alcoholic beverages, listen to boring classical music and always be **abounding in** grace and dignity. It just didn't suit him.

It didn't suit the country either.

In fact, he was quickly becoming **abhorrent to** all of its citizens. They had liked him a **while back**, but now they just wanted him to leave. When he finally told a **white lie** that he needed to return to America to visit his sick grandmother, they were happy to let him leave.

When he never returned, no one missed him. They just elected a new president more suited to the role of a puppet and moved on. And Mike McGee happily spent the rest of his life in Las Vegas on the pension plan they gave to him!

本课短语

a wet blanket	扫兴的人(或事物)
a while back	一段时间之前,不久以前
a white elephant	(保管起来既费钱又费事的)累赘东西,无价值(或不值钱)的东西
a white lie	善意的谎言
a (great/wide) variety of	种种,各种
a (great/wide) range of	广泛的;许多的
abandon oneself to	沉溺于,放纵
abhorrent to	与...相抵触的,与...不相符的
abound in	充满,富于
absent from	缺席,不在
absent-minded	心不在焉,健忘
abstain from	戒,避开
abuse of	对...的滥用;虐待
accede to	同意,答应;正式加入,参加;就任,继任,即位

故事译文

国家领导? 没什么了不起!

当麦克·麦吉**就任**帕拉多总统时,他不知道那很快就成了一个**不值钱的东西**!他很快了解到,尽管他的权力**很广**,却无法使用。比方说,他可以在万人之上治理国家,却再也不能像以前那样**尽情享受**了,尤其是在公众面前。他不能再做的**种种**事情可多啦!

当麦克**缺席**几次重要会议的时候,他的众手下就会说他**心不在焉**。当他不愿全神贯注地参加热烈的时事讨论时,他们就叫他不要做一个**扫兴的人**。可他就是快乐不起来。他得**戒色**,任何酒精饮料也不得**滥喝**,他得听无聊的古典音乐,时刻都要**充满**优雅和尊严。这些东西对他来说真是太不合适了。

这对国家也不合适。

事实上,他很快就**厌恶**他的所有公民了。**不久以前**,他们还很喜欢他,可现在他们只想他下台。最后他告诉了他们一个**善意的谎言**,说他要回美国看望生病的奶奶,这时他们巴不得他赶快走人。

他再也没有回来,也没有人想念他。他们重新选举了一位更加适合扮演傀儡角色的人当总统,日子还那样过着。靠着他们给他制订的退休金计划,麦克·麦吉在拉斯维加斯幸福地过着他的晚年生活!

The Story

The guide

"I would like to **act as** your guide!" A strange young man said to me. "**According to** the word on the street, you want to visit an **active volcano**. Is that true?"

"Yes it is!"

"I am well **acquainted with** both the terrain and the language of the people you will need to travel through to do this. I can therefore help you **across the board**. And I only need **access to** the standard amount of pay."

"Wonderful. But you seem a little bit young." *2*

"I will not **act my age**. Nor will I be your **Achilles' heel** on this journey. No one has ever **accused me of** not delivering what I promise. No, you will be impressed with my abilities to help you **adapt to** the surroundings as we travel together."

"You're hired. What should we do first?"

"First we must **account for** all of the proper provisions. Have you **acquired a taste for** local food yet?"

"No, unfortunately not. We just arrived."

"Then we will need to purchase more here in town before we leave. We must **act upon** that immediately. If you give me money to serve as a food budget I can **act for** you to purchase supplies."

"Here you go. Do we need to rent a vehicle and driver?"

"Oh no. The drivers in this town **act up** too much. We will rent our own animals and travel straight up the mountain. It is the best way to go anyhow."

"Okay. You're the expert!"

本课短语

access to	接近(或进入)的机会(或权力),享用机会(或权力);通向…的入口
according to	根据,依据
account for	提出理由,做出解释,做出说明
accuse (sb.) of (sth.)	控告;指责,把…归咎于
Achilles' heel	惟一的弱点,致命弱点
acquaint (sb.) with	使了解
acquire a taste for (sth.)	对…有兴趣,开始喜欢
across the board	全面地,包括一切地
act as	充当,担任…角色
act for	代理
act on(或 upon)	遵照…行事;作用于,影响
act up	(机器)运转不正常;(疾病)发作;耍脾气,捣蛋
act(或 be) one's age	举止和年龄相称;举止有大人气
active volcano	活火山
adapt to	使适应



故事译文

导游

“我想当你的导游!”一个陌生男子对我说,“**根据**街上传来的消息,你想参观一座活火山,是真的吗?”

“是真的!”

“对于你要做的这次旅行,我是既**熟悉**地形又熟悉那儿的人说的语言,因此我可以**全面地**帮助你,而我只想**有机会享受**标准报酬。”

“太好啦!可你看起来有点太年轻了。”

“我**做事**可不**像我的年龄**,我也不会成为你旅途中的**致命弱点**。还没有人**指责**过我,说我说话不算数。不会的,我们在一起的时间一长,你就会对我的能力留下印象,我会**使你适应**周围环境。”

“那就用你啦!我们首先应该做什么?”

“首先我们得对所有要带的必需品**做出解释**。你已经**对**当地的食物**产生兴趣**了吗?”

“没有,可惜还没有,我们刚刚才到这儿。”

“这样的话,我们就要在出发之前在这里多买些东西,我们必须马上**照此行事**。如果你把食物专款给我,我可以**代**你购买各种食品。”

“就照你的意思办。我们需要雇一辆车和一名司机吗?”

“不需要,这里的司机太爱**捣蛋**了,我们给自己租一个牲畜直接上山,反正这是最好的办法。”

“好的,你真是个专家!”

The Story

Registration Hell

“It just didn’t **add up**!” Bill thought to himself as he flipped through his **address book** looking for the next person to call. “Why was there no one in the **administration building**?” He had to have this last **advanced course** to be able to graduate at the end of the semester and no one was answering the registration phone.

“Hello, registration.”

Bill explained his problem once again. To **add insult to injury**, however, the person yelled at him for not calling sooner! Bill had to admit to himself that they had a point. He had been **FIVE MINUTES LATE** at first! And when he tried to **adjust** his schedule from **A to B** it hadn’t worked either. So he had maybe lost a half hour before he tried calling the registration help desk. But that was just **adhering to** policy: “First try alternatives before asking for help!” Then he had wasted over an hour trying to reach them.

His admiration for the university he was about to graduate from fell a couple notches. How could they be treating a student like this?

When he finally reached his advisor, she also began to **add fuel to the flames** before she added everything up to see that Bill was doing his best. Then she **added** his name **to** a special list that would allow Bill to register as an **add on**. This was the exception that he had been looking for and Bill finally breathed a sigh of relief. He wanted to **adorn** his advisor **with** a wreath of roses, but the flower store **adjacent to** his home was closed.

He made sure to **add in** her name to his list of people to thank when he graduated. She had literally saved his life!