

美语趣味小品摘编

(中级本)

SELECTED INTERMEDIATE ANECDOTES IN AMERICAN ENGLISH

(英汉对照)

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Lesson 1

Jim walked into a store which had a sign outside: "Second-hand clothes bought and sold." He was carrying an old pair of pants and asked the owner of the store, "How much will you give me for these?" The man looked at them and then said rudely, "Two dollars."

"What!" said Jim. "I had guessed they were worth at least five."

"No," said the man, "they aren't worth a penny more than two dollars."

"Are you sure?" asked Jim.

"Very sure," said the man.

"Well," said Jim, taking two dollars out of his pocket, "here's your money. These pants were hanging outside your store with a price tag that said \$6.50, but I thought that was too much money, so I wanted to make sure how much they were really worth."

Then he walked out of the store with the pair of pants and disappeared before the surprised store owner could think of anything to say.

Questions:

1. What was bought and sold in the store that Jim went into?
2. What did Jim take into the store with him?
3. How much did the owner of the store offer Jim for them?
4. Where did Jim find the pants?

5. How much was the owner asking for them?
6. How much did Jim pay for them?

Lesson 2

A young boy was playing with a ball in the street. He kicked it too hard, and it broke the window of a house and fell inside. A lady came to the window with the ball and shouted at the young boy, so he ran away, but he still wanted his ball back. A few minutes later he returned and knocked at the door of the house, and when the lady answered it, he said, "My father's going to come and fix your window very soon."

After a few more minutes a man came to the door with tools in his hand, so the lady let the boy take his ball away.

When the man finished fixing the window, he said to the lady, "That will cost you exactly ten dollars."

"But aren't you the father of that young boy?" the woman asked, looking surprised. "No," he answered, equally surprised. "Aren't you his mother?"

Questions:

1. How did the young boy lose his ball?
2. Why did he run away?
3. And why did he come back?
4. Why did the lady let him take his ball away?

5. Who did the lady think the man was who came to fix the window?
6. Who did he think the lady was?

Lesson 3

Mr. and Mrs. Scott moved to a small town, and they made arrangements at the local bank to open an account in both their names. But Mr. Scott was a businessman and always worked during the times that the bank was open, so his wife was the one who usually went there when they needed money.

Then one day Mr. Scott had a vacation, so he went to the bank, but the bank teller didn't know him, and wasn't willing to give him any money until she was sure that he was really Mr. Scott. She said politely, "I know Mrs. Scott, but I don't know you yet. Could you please show me something to prove that you are Mr. Scott?"

Mr. Scott looked in his wallet and found some photographs of his wife. He showed them to the teller, and she was satisfied and gave him his money.

Questions:

1. What kind of account did Mr. and Mrs. Scott open at the bank?
2. Who usually went to the bank to get money?
3. Who went there one day?
4. What did the teller say to Mr. Scott?

5. What did Mr. Scott show the teller to prove who he was?
6. What did the teller do then?

Lesson 4

The college had a very good football team, and its best player was a student who always had trouble in school. Then one year the dean of the college said that the player would have to leave because he had cheated on an exam. The football coach immediately went to the dean to try to persuade him to let the student stay in school. The dean showed him two answer papers. "This one is Susan's paper. She's the best student in the class," he said. "And this one's your football player's. They're exactly the same. The football player sat at the next desk, and just copied from her."

"But maybe she copied from him," the coach said. "You can't prove it was the other way."

"Look at this," the dean said. "Susan didn't know the answer to this question, so she wrote, 'I don't know.' And your football player wrote, 'Neither do I.'"

Questions:

1. Why did the dean want the student to leave the college?
2. Why did the coach want him to stay?
3. What did the dean show the coach?

4. And what did the dean say to him?
5. What did the coach suggest then?
6. And what did the dean answer?

Lesson 5

A small store sold a lot of nice jewelry, and the owner was always very careful to prevent people from stealing it.

One day a thief came and tried to steal a beautiful necklace, but the owner of the store caught him immediately and went to the telephone to call the police to come and arrest him.

"Please don't do that!" the thief said. "I have a wife and three children at home. And I'll pay for the necklace."

The owner of the store felt sorry for the man and he didn't want to have a lot of trouble with the police, so he accepted the man's offer to pay for the necklace and went to prepare a bill for it. But when he gave it to the thief, the man looked disturbed and said, "I wasn't intending to get anything as expensive as that. Do you have something cheaper?"

Questions:

1. What did the store owner catch a man doing?
2. What did the store owner do?
3. What did the thief say?

4. Why did the store owner accept the man's offer?
5. What did the store owner do?
6. What did the thief say then?

Lesson 6

Mr. Smith left his car outside his apartment one night, as usual, but when he came down the next morning to go to his office, he discovered that the car wasn't there. He called the police and told them what had happened, and they said that they would try to find the car.

When Mr. Smith came home from his office that evening, the car was back again in its usual place in front of his house. He examined it carefully to see whether it had been damaged, and found two theater tickets on one of the seats and a letter which said, "We're very sorry. We took your car because of an emergency."

Mr. and Mrs. Smith went to the theater with the two tickets the next night and enjoyed themselves very much.

When they got home, they found that thieves had taken almost everything they had had in their apartment.

Questions:

1. What did Mr. Smith discover when he left his apartment one morning?

2. What did he do about this?
3. What did he see when he got back home that evening?
4. What did he find on one of the seats?
5. What did Mr. and Mrs. Smith do with the tickets?
6. What happened when they got home?

Lesson 7

Tom had retired and lived by himself a long way from town. He hardly ever left his home, but one day he went into town to buy some things in the market, and after he had bought them, he went into a restaurant and sat down at a table by himself. When he looked around, he saw several old people put eyeglasses on before reading their newspapers, so after lunch he decided to go to a store to buy himself some glasses too. He walked along the road, and soon found a store.

The man in the store made him try on a lot of glasses, but Tom always said, "No, I can't read with these,"

The man became more and more puzzled, until finally he said, "Excuse me, but can you read at all?"

"No, of course I can't!" Tom said angrily. "If I was already able to read, do you think I would have come here to buy glasses?"

Questions:

1. What did Tom see in a restaurant?
2. What did he decide to do?
3. What did the man in the store do?
4. What did Tom say each time?
5. What did the man finally ask Tom?
6. What did Tom answer?

Lesson 8

A math teacher had been teaching his class all about fractions for the past week, and now he wanted to find out how much they had been able to remember, so he asked one of the boys in the class, "If I cut a piece of meat into two pieces, what would I get?"

"Halves," answered the student at once.

"Good," said the teacher. "And if I cut each piece in half again?"

"Fourths," answered the next student.

"And if I cut it again, Robert?" the teacher went on.

"Eighths," answered Robert.

"Yes," said the teacher, nodding to the next boy. "And again?"

"Sixteenths, sir," was the answer.

"Good," said the teacher. "And once more, Lisa?"

"Thirty-seconds," answered Lisa after thinking for a few seconds.

"Yes, that's right. And again?" the teacher continued.

"Hamburger meat," answered the last student,

who thought that all of these questions were becoming a little silly.

Questions:

1. What had the math teacher been teaching?
2. What was his first question?
3. What was the first student's answer?
4. What was the last fraction they reached?
5. What did the last student say?
6. Why did he answer like that?

Lesson 9

George worked in San Francisco. He wasn't married, and he usually had his lunch, and occasionally his dinner, in small restaurants.

One evening he decided to go to an expensive restaurant, and when he got in, he saw a large, heavy man who he had not seen for several years sitting by himself at a table. He thought for a few moments and then remembered the man's name, so he went up to him and said politely, "Hello, Mr. Grey. How's business?"

"Oh, it's not good at all," the large man answered.

George looked at the expensive food and wine on Mr. Grey's table and was surprised. "It certainly doesn't look as if your business is bad," he said.

"Well," Mr. Grey answered sadly, "I'm afraid you're wrong. A few years ago I was doing

very well, and I could afford to bring my wife to this place for dinner too."

Questions:

1. Where did George usually eat?
2. Where did he go one evening?
3. Who did he see there?
4. How was Mr. Grey's business doing?
5. Why was George surprised?
6. What did Mr. Grey say to him then?

Lesson 10

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and their children were going to begin their vacation one day, and they had to be at the airport at eleven-forty A.M. "It'll take us half an hour to get there in the taxi," Mr. Wilson said, "so we all have to be ready by eleven o'clock. Nobody should be late."

At ten minutes to eleven they were still all running around doing things, except Mrs. Wilson, who was sitting quietly on a chair in the garden enjoying the sun.

Her husband and children were very surprised that she wasn't in a hurry too, until the taxi arrived and Mrs. Wilson said to them, "Well, I knew that this was going to happen, so before I went to bed last night, I moved all our clocks and watches ahead twenty minutes. So now we can go to the airport quietly without worrying about being late."

Questions:

1. Why did Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and their children have to be ready by eleven o'clock?
2. What were Mr. Wilson and the children doing at ten-fifty?
3. What was Mrs. Wilson doing?
4. How did her husband and children feel about this?
5. What had Mrs. Wilson done the night before?
6. Why had she done this?

Lesson 11

Peter was a ventriloquist. He worked in theaters and night clubs, but he wasn't very good, and one month he was out of work and hungry. Then he found a dog on the street and took it into a restaurant with him. They sat down at a table, and the dog seemed to order food and talk about it, so the owner of the restaurant, the waiters, and the other guests were very surprised.

The owner thought that a lot of people would come to his restaurant to listen to the dog speak if it was his, so he offered to buy it, and finally the ventriloquist agreed to sell the dog for a high price.

When the owner of the restaurant had paid, the dog appeared to say to the ventriloquist, "Well, you sold me, didn't you?"

"Yes, I did," answered the ventriloquist.

"Then I refuse to speak ever again."

Questions:

1. What did the dog seem to do in the restaurant?
2. Why did the owner of the restaurant want to buy the dog?
3. What did the ventriloquist finally do?
4. What did the dog "ask" then?
5. What did the ventriloquist answer?
6. And what did the dog "say" then?

Lesson 12

Eddie liked music very much when he was at school, but when he went to the university he decided to study medicine, instead of music. When he passed his examinations and became a doctor, he had to work in a hospital for some time. There he discovered that a lot of the patients were happier and caused less trouble if pleasant music was played to them. When Eddie got an office and began to work for himself, he decided to keep his patients happy by having a tape recorder in his waiting room play beautiful music for them.

But soon after the tape recorder had been put in, Eddie's nurse heard a woman, who was sitting in the crowded waiting room one morning, complain, "Here we're all waiting to see the doctor, and he's just playing the violin in his office instead of doing his work!"

Questions:

1. What did Eddie like when he was at school?
2. What did he study at the university?
3. Where did Eddie work after he passed his examinations?
4. What did pleasant music do to a lot of the patients in the hospital?
5. Why did Eddie put a tape recorder in his waiting room?
6. What did Eddie's nurse hear a patient say one morning?

Lesson 13

Mr. Marsh was a Senator in the government. One day he was driving to a town to make an important speech when he stopped at a small restaurant to have some coffee. When he saw that the restaurant had some nice fresh rolls, he asked the waitress for one, and she brought it. Then he asked for some butter and jam, and she brought a very small serving of butter and a very small jar of jam.

"I'd like some more jam, please." Mr. Marsh said.

"I'm sorry," she answered, "but we only give one serving of butter and one jar of jam with each roll."

Mr. Marsh began to get annoyed. "Do you know who I am, young lady?" he said. "I'm the state Senator."

"And do you know who I am?" the waitress

asked.

Mr. Marsh was surprised and said, "NO."

"Well," she answered, "I'm the person who gives out the jars of jam."

Questions:

1. Who was Mr. Marsh?
2. Why did he stop at a small restaurant?
3. What did Mr. Marsh ask the waitress to bring more of?
4. What did the waitress answer?
5. What did Mr. Marsh say about himself?
6. What did the waitress say about herself?

Lesson 14

Mr. Lewis was a dance teacher. He was a nice man and always had a lot of students who used to come to his classes every week. One year he moved to a new town, and was soon teaching a lot of students in the dance school there, but then he decided to move again to a big city where he would have more work.

When one of the ladies who regularly came to his classes heard that he was going to leave, she said to him, "The teacher who takes your place won't be as good as you are."

Mr. Lewis was happy when he heard this, but he said, "Oh, no! I'm sure he'll be as good as I am—or even better."

The lady said, "No. Five teachers have come and gone while I've been here, and each new one was worse than the last."

Questions:

1. What did Mr. Lewis teach?
2. Why did he want to move to a big city?
3. What did one of his students say when she heard this?
4. How did Mr. Lewis feel about this?
5. What did he say to the student?
6. What did she answer?

Lesson 15

A teacher was asking a student a lot of questions, but the student couldn't answer any of them. The teacher then decided to ask him some very easy questions so that he could get a few right.

"What was Bunker Hill?" she said.

The student thought for some time and then answered, "An airport?"

"No, it was a battle," the teacher said. She was getting a little angry now, but she was trying not to show it. Then she asked, "Who was the first President of the United States?"

The student thought for a long time, but didn't say anything. Then the teacher got very angry and shouted, "George Washington!" The student got up and began to walk towards