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ENGLISH STORIES
CAREFULLY CHOSEN
FOR JUNIORS



英语故事精选

北京工业学院出版社

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英 语 故 事 精 选

郑学才 李青云 选注

北京工业学院出版社

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内 容 简 介

为了满足初中学生英语课外阅读的需要，编者精选了三十个短小精悍的英语故事汇集成册。本书的内容既妙趣横生，又富有教育意义。文章语言精炼，便于朗读背诵；对其中的生词、惯用语和语法上的难点都作了较详细的注释，有助于学生复习、巩固和丰富所学的英语知识；结合各篇内容插图二十幅；另外还配有录音磁带，有助于提高听说能力。因此，本书是目前初中学生和具有初级英语水平的自学者一本较好的英语读物。

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语少年读者

亲爱的少年朋友：

你好。你对英语似乎很感兴趣。除了课堂知识外，你还想学到一些课外知识，很想有一本适合初中英语水平的课外读物。这本书就是试图满足你的这一要求而编写的。我们在这本书里为你精选了三十个英语小故事。为了帮助你首先看懂这些故事内容，我们对其中的生僻词汇和语言难点逐一作了详细注释。我们希望这些妙趣横生的小故事不仅能使你提高英语阅读能力，而且能从中汲取某些教益。我们也希望我们的注释能帮助你复习、巩固和丰富你在课堂上所学的英语知识。

我们认为，学习任何一门语言都必须努力达到“四得”，即听得懂，说得出口，读得明白，写得正确。可是当前许多人学英语，往往只着眼于读（阅读）和写（写作）而忽视听和说。这种本末倒置的学习风气是造成大批“英语语盲”的主要原因之一。它根本适应不了当前四化建设的需要。

我们寄希望于你的是能全面地学习英语：耳到，口到，眼到，手到，心到。所谓“耳到”，就是要听英语录音，反复听，天天听。这就是成语“耳濡目染”所强调的“多听”。听得多了，知识无形中就接受下来了。听又是说的先导。你想学会说英语，就得多下功夫听英语。听和说相辅相成，这是有科学根据的。为什么北京少年说一口北京话，上海少年操一口上海音呢？道理很简单，因为他们从小听的就是当地的方言呀！所谓“口到”，就是要勤于朗读。单词、短语要朗朗上口，对话、短文更要朗读、背诵。通过反复的

“口而诵，心而维”，你的发音器官才能得以充分实践，从而达到熟能生巧、说一口流利英语的水平。

为帮助你提高听和说的能力，本书出版之后拟配备专家的原声录音磁带，希望你勤听并随录音勤读勤诵，最后达到能用英语复述其中任何一个故事的熟练程度。

亲爱的少年朋友，我们衷心祝望这本《英语故事精选》成为你的良师益友，对你的英语学习有所帮助。在你使用这本书的过程中，若发现有什么差错或有什么意见和建议，请你直率提出，以便纠正和改进。

编者

1986年3月8日

Oxford 牛津

Cambridge 剑桥

Harvard 哈佛 / Boston

MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Academic Life 課內生活

Extracurricular Life

— what you do outside class.

sophomore → the second

junior — 3rd

senior — 4th

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The First Story

The Emperor¹ and the Poet²

An Emperor liked to write poems³ very much. He thought his poems were very good. The people did not like his poems at all. But they were afraid to say so.

One day the emperor showed his poems to a well-known⁴ poet. He said that they were bad. The emperor was very angry and *sent the poet to prison.⁵



After some time the emperor sent his men to the poet to tell him that he was free. When the poet returned from prison, the emperor *invited him to his palace to dinner.⁶

Again he showed him some of his poems and again asked him *what he thought of them.⁷

The poet said nothing but *turned to the soldiers⁸ who were standing behind him, and said: "Please take me back to prison."

注释

1. 皇帝。读作 ['empərə]。
2. 诗人，读作 ['pəuit]。
3. 诗，诗篇，韵文（复数）；读作 ['pəuimz]。
4. 著名的
5. 把诗人关进监狱； prison 读作 ['prizn]。
6. 请他到宫殿里赴宴
7. 他对这些诗有什么意见，这是及物动词 asked 的宾语从句，不是疑问句，因而没有助动词 did。
8. 向士兵们转过身去

注释方法说明：注释单词，用阿拉伯数字标在该词的右上角。如：Emper-
or¹, Poet²。注释短语或句子，用星号 * 标在其首词左上角，又用阿拉伯
数字标在其末词的右上角，表示起止。如：*sent the poet to prison⁸。

The Second Story

The Greedy¹ Dog

A greedy dog *stole a large piece of meat from a butcher's store.² He *held the meat tightly between his teeth³ and ran home with it.

On his way he came to a small bridge over a stream. *As he was crossing the bridge,⁴ he looked down and saw his own shadow⁵ *in the water below.⁶ But he didn't know it was his own shadow. He thought it was another dog. He saw another large piece of meat in the other dog's mouth.

"If I can get the meat from the dog, I shall have two pieces," he thought. So he *bent down⁷ to get the meat. But as soon as he opened his mouth, his meat fell out and dropped into the water.

The greedy dog had nothing at last.

注释:

1. 贪婪的; 读作 ['gri:di].
2. 从肉铺偷了一大块肉; steal (stole, stolen, 及物动词): 偷; butcher ['butʃə]: 肉商, 卖肉的人; store [sto:]: 店铺
3. 用牙紧紧地叼住那块肉; hold (held, held, 及物动词): 拿住, 夹住; tightly ['taitli] (副词): 紧紧地
4. 他正过桥时; cross (-ed, -ed, 及物动词): 越过
5. 影子; 读作 ['ʃeɪdʊ].

6. 在下面的水里, below 读作 [bi'ləu]; 它在这里是副词.
作 water 的后置定语。

7. 弯下身子, bend (bent, bent, 不及物动词): 屈身, 俯身

The Third Story

A Terrible¹ Mistake

Sir Isaac Newton was a great English scientist. He always *gave all his attention to his work.² One morning he got up very early because he *was working on a very difficult problem.³ *As he was thinking so deeply about the problem that he would not go for his breakfast.⁴

His servant Mary thought he needed food, so she brought an egg and *a pan of water⁵ to his study.⁶ But Newton wanted *to be alone.⁷ “Mary can leave the egg with Newton, and Newton will boil the egg,” he said. The servant put the egg on the table *by the side of Newton’s watch⁸ and said, “Please boil the egg for four minutes and the egg *will be ready.⁹” Then she left the room.

When the servant returned about *an hour later,¹⁰ Newton was standing by the fireplace. He had put the watch in the pan and was holding the egg in his hand. He did not know that he had made a terrible mistake.

注 释

1. [ˈterɪbl] (形容词) 可怕的, 触目惊心的
2. 聚精会神地工作, give all one’s attention [əˈtenʃən] to sth 直译为, 将个人的全部注意力用于某件事情。又如:
You should give all your attention to your lesson. 你

应当聚精会神地听课。

3. 打算做一道很难的题; **was working** 在此形式上是过去进行时, 实际意思是表示在当时即将发生的动作, 无异说 **was going to work**。动向动词如 **come, go, leave** 等, 可用进行时态表示即将发生的动作, 如: **I'm leaving tonight**. 我今天夜里就走。 **She is coming soon**. 她一会儿就来。
4. 因为他绞尽脑汁思考着那问题, 连早点也不想吃了; **think about sth** 思考(思索)某事, 如: **The boss is thinking about Jim's job**. 老板正考虑吉姆工作的事。 **so ... that** 句型在此表示因果关系。又如: **She is so ill that she is dying**. 她病得死。 **You speak so fast that I can hardly catch your idea**. 你说得太快, 我听不懂你的意思。

5 一锅水

6. (名词) 书房

7. (系表短语) 单独一人, 独处; **alone** [ə'ləun] (形容词); 独自一人的(在句子里只作表语); **alone** 又是副词, 如: **I went alone**. 我是一个人去的。
8. 在牛顿的手表旁边; **by the side of ...**, **beside...**, 二者都是介词, 都是“在……旁边”的意思。如: **The teacher is standing by the side of the blackboard**. 老师正站在黑板旁边。
9. 就会煮熟; **to be ready** 基本意思是“是准备停当的”, 既可指物, 又可指人; 指物时, 须正确理解和注意翻译, 如: **Your watch is ready now**. 你的表修好了。 **Is supper ready?** 晚饭做得了吗?
10. 一小时以后; **later** ['leɪtə] (副词); 晚些时候, 以后

The Fourth Story

The Cock and the Fox

One evening a fox saw that *a cock flew up into a tree for the night.¹ He thought *the cock would be his big supper.² He went over and said, "Hello, Mr. Cock, I've



got some very good news for you.”

“Oh, what is it?”

“All animals *have agreed to stop fighting.³ We shall be good friends and live like a big family *from now on,⁴” said he. “Now come to my house and have supper together.”

“All right,” said the cock. “But *I see a couple of dogs coming this way.⁵ Let’s ask them to come to supper too.”

When the fox heard this, he started to run away.

“Wait, Mr. Fox, why are you running away? They are *good friends of yours⁶ now,” cried the cock.

“Yes,” answered the fox. “But maybe⁷ they don’t know that yet.”

“I see,” said the cock to himself. And he put his head under his wing and went to sleep.

注 释

1. 一只公鸡飞到树上去过夜；这是及物动词 **saw** 的宾语从句，它前边的 **that** 是连接词。fly (flew, flown) up, 飞起来，向上飞；for the night 介词短语作状语，表示飞到树上的目的是度过夜晚。又如：He went home for Christmas. 他回家过圣诞节。I came here for my holidays. 我来这儿度假。
2. 这只公鸡可以供他饱餐一顿；这是及物动词 **thought** 的宾语从句，连接词 **that** 被略去了。would be 是动词 **be** 的过去将来时形式，表示在某一过去的行动之后将要发生的行动，如：She said she would come to see you. 她说过她要来看望你。
3. 已经同意停止争斗；agree to do (sth), 同意做某件事情，如：Do you agree to take a walk with me? 你同意和我

一起去散散步吗？它的反意语是 **refuse** [ri'fju:z] to do (sth), 拒绝（不同意）做某事，如：She never refuses to help others. 她从来不拒绝帮助别人。 **fighting** 在这里是动名词（也就是由动词演化成的名词）作及物动词 **stop** 的宾语。

4. 从今以后，从现在起
5. 我看见几条狗正朝这里走来， **a couple** ['kʌpl] of ... 在这里是“几个，三两个”的意思，例如：in a couple of days 在三两天内。另外它也有“一对”，“一双”的意思，如：five couples of rabbits 五对兔子。 **coming** 在这里是现在分词作宾补，表示动作正在发生的过程中。
6. 你的好朋友；这和 **your good friends** 在含义上稍有区别。**good friends of yours** 这种说法表示“你的好朋友当中的部分好朋友”，言外之意，你还有别的一些好朋友。又如：This is my book. 这是我的书。我是否还有其它书，这句话并未说明。This is a book of mine. 这是我的一本书。这句话就具有两层意思：其一，这是我的书；其二，我还有别的书，这只是其中的一本。 **of yours, of mine** 是介词短语在句子里作名词的后置定语。
7. ['meibi:]（副词）或许，也许，可能，是 **perhaps** [præps] 的同义词。