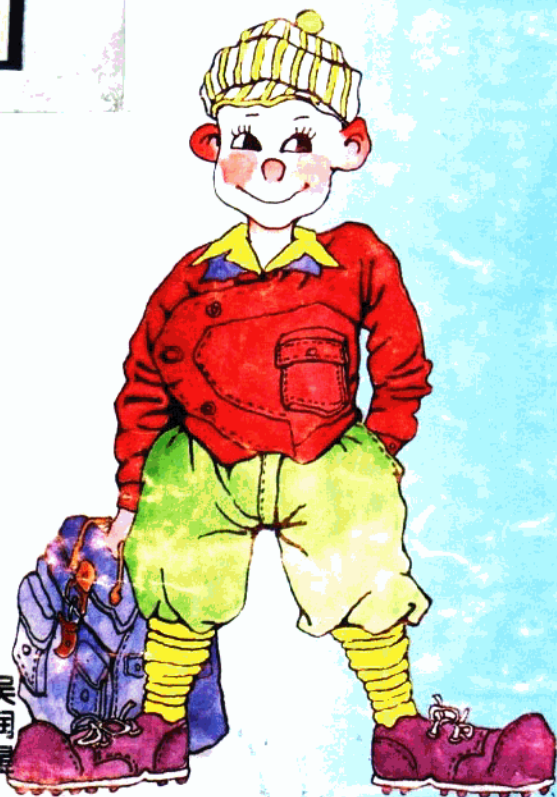




英语趣味小品菁华

②



吴润星
吴晓静



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译注者前言

恩格斯说：“幽默是具有智慧、教养和道德上优越感的表现。”列宁也曾说：“幽默是一种优美的、健康的品质。”你的幽默表现出你性格的开朗、情趣的高尚、待人的真诚和心地的善良。

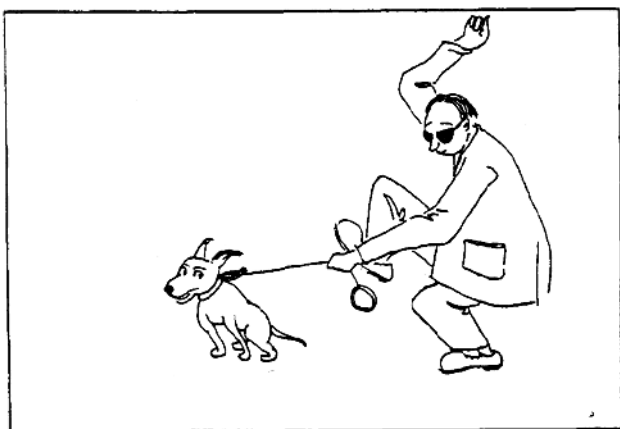
我们向广大读者奉献的这一套《英语趣味小品菁华》(首批 1~3 册),其中精选出来的英语幽默小故事大都文字精炼、风格流畅、简明易懂、雅俗共赏。它们的内容不但幽默风趣,而且寓意深刻,读来文采斐然,令人忍俊不禁。它寓学于乐,让读者在学习英语的同时,还在心领神会的笑声中获得道德情操上的教益和生活工作中的启迪。

本套书照顾到英语初学者的词汇量不够大,语法学习得也不够深这一特点,每个故事都由原文、译文和注释等三个部分组成,以便读者阅读时对照参考。

译注者

1995 年 10 月

1



A blind man was out walking with his Seeing Eye dog when suddenly the animal paused and wet the blind man's leg. Bending down^①, the blind man stretched out^②his hand and patted the dog's head.

Having watched what happened, a passerby said, "Say, why are you patting him? That dog just peed on your leg!"

"I know," said the blind man, "but I got to find his head before I can **kick** his ass".

[参考译文]

一个盲人牵着他的导盲狗在路上走。突然,那条狗停下来撒尿,把盲人的腿尿湿了。那盲人弯下腰,伸出手去拍那条狗的脑袋。

一个过路人目睹了这一情景,说道,“我说,你为什么还要去拍它呢?这狗刚才还尿湿了你的腿呀!”

“我知道,”那盲人说道,“可我总得先要找到它的脑袋,然后才好照准它的屁股给它一脚呀!”

[注 释]

- ① bend down (bent, bent): 弯下腰

例: The old man bent down to pick up an axe. 那老人俯身拾起一把斧头。

bending down 在句中是分词短语,作时间状语。

- ② stretch out: 伸出

例: The worker stretched out his arm to take the hammer from the tool rack. 这工人伸出手臂从工具架上拿锤子。

2

One Sunday a priest told the people in the church that he would speak about liars the next week, and they should read the seventeenth chapter of St. Mark before then, so as to be ready for the next week^①.

The following Sunday he began by looking around the people in the church and asking which of them had read the seventeenth chapter St. Mark.

Quite a lot of the people held up their hands, and the priest then said, "You are just the people my today's talk will be intended for."^② St. Mark only has sixteen chapters."

[参考译文]

某个礼拜天，一位牧师对教堂里的信徒说，下个礼拜天他将要讲一个说谎人的故事，并说，为了给下周的礼拜做好准备，信徒们都应该在事先阅读马可福音的第十七章。

下一个礼拜天，一开始他就环顾教堂里所有的信徒们，问他们中间哪些人读过了马可福音第十七章。

相当多的人把他们的手举了起来。于是，牧师说道：“你们

正好就是我今天讲道中所要针对的那些人,要知道,马可福音总共才只有十六章。”

[注 释]

- ① so as to be ready, 为了……作准备。这是一个动词不定式短语,作目的状语。
- ② 动词 intend...for 意为“把…指定给…”,其被动语态则为 be intended for。
如: This interesting story is intended for children. 这个有趣的故事是讲给孩子们听的。

3



Mr. Jones went to a theatre to hear a famous singer sing popular songs. In front of him in the theatre was a man who made a lot of noise with his programme, and then simply began to sing quietly with the man on the stage.

Mr. Jones became so annoyed that he said quite loudly^①, "What a fool!" The man in front turned round. He had a big face and very black brows. He whispered threateningly, "Are you talking about me?"

“Oh, no!” answered Mr. Jones, suddenly feeling afraid. “I was talking about the man on the stage, who was stopping me hearing you properly.”

[参考译文]

琼斯先生到剧院去听一位著名歌手演唱流行歌曲。在剧院里,他前排坐着的一个男人不断地翻动节目单,发出很大的响声;到后来这个人竟干脆跟着台上的演员轻声地唱了起来。

琼斯先生感到非常恼火,忍不住很大声地说道:“真是个蠢货!”坐在前排的那个人回过身来恫吓地低声说道:“你是在说我吗?”这个人有着一张庞然大脸,还长着两条乌黑的眉毛。

“啊,不是!”琼斯先生赶忙回答道——突然感到一阵恐惧袭上心头——“我是在说台上那个人,他不让我好好地听您唱歌。”

[注 释]

- ① 这是一个带结果状语从句的主从复合句,句中 with so… (+副词或形容词) that… 引出从句,意为“如此…以致…”

例:He spoke so fast that I could not understand him. 他说得这样快,以致我听不懂他的话。

…suddenly feeling afraid 这是一个分词短语,摆在句尾做表伴随情况的状语,feel 本身作系动词用,与后面的形容词 afraid 构成系表结构。这种用分词作短语表伴随情况或补充说明状语的句子在英语中是常见的。例:I stood there, listening to the broadcast. 我站在那儿听广播。

Lao Li marched at the head, followed by his comrades. 老李走在最前面,后面跟着他的同志们。

4

Mr Reece was a farmer. He and his wife grew^① a lot of things and they had a few cows. They worked very hard. One day, Mr Reece said to his wife, "Let's go to Portsmouth next Sunday. We can have a good lunch there, and then we can go to the cinema."

His wife was very happy when she heard this, because she and her husband always ate a lot, and she did not like cooking three times every day.

They went to Portsmouth by train and walked about^② for an hour. Then, when it was 12 o'clock, they wanted to have a meal. They looked at several restaurants. In one of them there was a notice outside:

"Lunch: 12 : 30 to 2 : 30: £1.5."

"Well, that's good," Mrs Reece said, "We can eat for two hours for £1.5 here. This is the place for us."

[参考译文]

里斯先生是个农民。他和他妻子种了很多农作物，还养了

几头牛。他们干活很卖劲。有一天,里斯先生对妻子说:“下个星期天我们去朴次茅斯吧,在那儿我们可以美美地吃顿午餐,然后再去看电影。”

他妻子听了很高兴,因为她和丈夫饭量很大,她可不喜欢天天忙活那三顿饭。

他们乘火车来到朴次茅斯,四处溜达了约一小时。到了十二点,他们想吃饭。他们看了几家餐馆,其中有一家门外挂块牌子:“午餐:12:30—2:30:1.5 镑。”

“噢,这很好,”里斯太太说:“花 1.5 镑可以在这家吃上两个钟头,这才是我们要找的地方”。

[注 释]

- ① grow [grəʊ] vi. 生长,成长。vt. 种植,喂养。

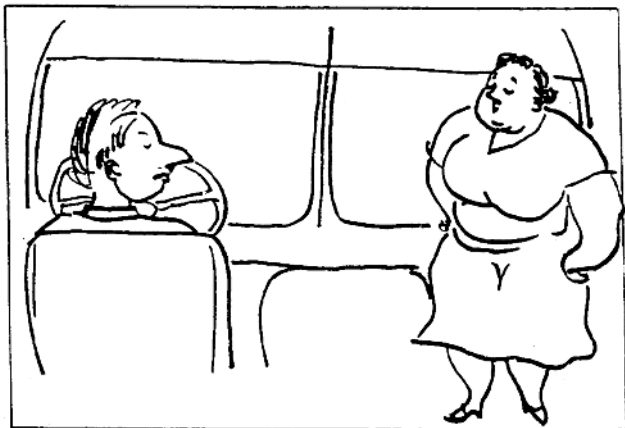
例:Our younger generation is growing up through struggle. 我们的青年一代正在斗争中成长起来。

The farmer is very diligent. He grows wheat in the field and grows pigs in the pen. 这个农民很勤快,他地里种了小麦,栏里喂着猪。

- ② walk about:到处走。此处 about 是副词。

例:Don't drop cigarett ashes about in the public places. 公共场所不要乱弹烟灰。

5



Senior citizens^① are permitted to travel cheaply on a bus if they have a special card. Women may get the card when they are sixty.

Mrs. Matthews lived in the country, but she went into town once a week to buy food and other things for the house, and she usually went by bus. She always had to pay the full price for the ride.

Then she reached the age of sixty and got her senior citizen's card, but when she used it for the first

time on the bus, it made her feel very old.

The bus driver had often seen her traveling on the bus before, and he noticed that she was feeling unhappy, so he decided to say something to make her happy. After Mrs Matthews had paid her money, the driver winked at her and whispered,

“Don't forget to give your mother's card back to her when you see her again.”

Mrs. Matthews was very happy when she heard this.

[参考译文]

退休老人持有养老证,乘公共汽车可以减价优待。妇女一到60岁即可领取此证。

马修斯太太住在乡下,每周去一次镇上,购买食品和日用品。通常她都是坐公共汽车去,上车买全票。

后来她60岁了,领到了养老证。当她第一次在公共汽车上使用,她感到自己确实老了。

公共汽车司机过去经常看见她乘车,这次他发现她不太高兴,因此,他决定说点儿什么让她变得高兴起来。在马修斯太太付钱以后,司机就对她眨了眨眼,小声地说:“回去见到你妈时,别忘记把养老证还给她。”

马修斯太太听了非常高兴。

[注 释]

① senior citizen ['si:njə. 'sitizn] 退休的公民

② wink [wɪŋk] v. 眨眼

wink at sb. 向某人使眼色

wink at sth. 假装看不见

例: The little girl winked at her mother to tell her not to give up her little secret to her brother. 小女孩向妈妈使了个眼色要她不要向她哥哥泄露她那个小小的秘密。

You shouldn't wink at your son's shortcomings which will do him great harm. 你不应该对你儿子的缺点假装看不见, 这些缺点将会对他极为有害。

6

Peter was eight and a half years old, and he went to a school near his house. He always went there and came home on foot, and he usually got back on time, but last Friday he came home from school late. His mother was in the kitchen, and she saw him and said to him, 'Why are you late, Peter?'

'My teacher was angry and sent me to the headmaster after our lessons.' Peter answered.

'To the headmaster?' his mother said. 'Why did she send you to him?'

'Because she asked a question in the class,' Peter said, and none of the children gave her the answer except me. '①

His mother was angry, 'But why did the teacher send you to the headmaster then? Why didn't she send all the other stupid children?' she asked Peter.

'Because her question was, "Who put glue ② on my chair"' Peter said.

[参考译文]

彼得八岁半了,在他家附近的小学上学。他上学及回家都是步行,通常都按时回家,上星期五他放学回来晚了。他母亲在厨房里,看见他回来了就说:“彼得,今天怎么回来晚了?”

“老师发脾气了。下课后她拉着我去见校长。”彼得说。

“去见校长?”他母亲说,“她为什么拉你去?”

“她在班上问一个问题,”彼得说,“除了我,谁也答不出来。”

他母亲听了很生气,她问彼得:“老师为什么单拉你去见校长?她为什么不拉着所有的蠢学生去呢?”

彼得说:“她的问题是‘谁把胶水抹在我的椅子上啦?’”

[注 释]

- ① none + of + 名词或代词;…中任何一个人(或物)都不…
例:None of us are (或 is) afraid of difficulties. 我们当中没有一个人害怕困难。
- ② glue [glu:] 胶水
例:She sticks like glue to her elder sister. 她跟她的姐姐形影不离。

7

When Mary Smith was a student, she always wanted to become a teacher, because she liked children. When she was twenty — one years old, she began teaching in a small school. She was a good teacher, and she laughed a lot with the children in her class. They enjoyed^① her teaching.

One day one of the girls in her class said to her, “Miss Smith, why does a man’s hair become gray before his mustache^② and beard do?”

Mary laughed and answered, “I don’t know, Helen. Why does it become gray before his mustache and beard do?”

“I don’t know, either, Miss Smith,” answered Helen, “but it happened to my father.” The other children in the class laughed when they heard this.

Then one of the boys said, “I know, Miss Smith! Men’s hair becomes gray first because it’s sixteen years older than their mustaches and beards.”