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INTERMEDIATE STEPS
TO UNDERSTANDING

英语趣味小品

第三册



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英语趣味小品

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译 者 的 话

《英语趣味小品》小丛书系根据 L.A. 希尔所著《理解进阶》精选而成，共三本。每本有 30 篇幽默小故事，各篇控制在 150 个单词左右，配有插图和练习，能使学生在有趣的阅读中逐步提高英语理解能力及语言实践能力。

这套小丛书的阅读起点，要求读者已掌握 750 个单词。此次我们给出了各篇故事的汉语译文，供广大英语初学者阅读参考。



Harry Marsh was a driving examiner who had to test people who wanted to get a driving-licence. One day he came out of his office as usual and saw a car at the side of the road, with a young man in it. He got into the car beside the driver and told him to check the lights, then the brakes and then all the other usual things. The driver performed everything promptly and faultlessly, without saying a word.

Then Harry told the driver to start his engine and drive forward. Then he told him to turn right into a side road, stop, go backwards into another side road and then drive to the office again.

On the way, the driver said to Harry politely, 'Could you please tell me why we are doing all these things? I was passing through this town and only stopped to look at my map.'

练 习

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

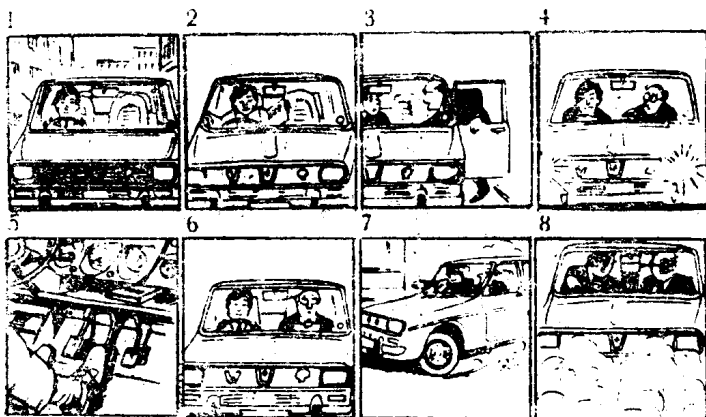
1. People who wanted a driving-licence had to have a test first. ☐ T
2. If a driver could check all the things like lights and brakes, Harry passed him. ☐ F
3. The young man had a lot of faults in his performance. ☐ F
4. Harry gave the young man a driving test by mistake.. ☐ F
5. Harry asked the young man to drive him to his office because he was late. ☐ F
6. The young man had not really come to have a driving test. ☐ T

B Answer these questions.

1. What was Harry's job?
2. What did he see outside his office one day?
3. What did he do?
4. What did he tell the young man to do?

5. What did the young man do?
6. What did Harry tell him to do after that?
7. What did the young man ask him after he had finished?
8. Why had his car been parked outside Harry's office?

C Put the right sentences under the right pictures.



1. A young man was driving through a town alone.
2. And then he made him go backwards.
3. He made him turn right.
4. He stopped to look at his map.
5. He told the young man to check his lights.
6. Suddenly an older man got into the car.
7. Then he made him drive forward.
8. Then he told him to check his brakes.

参 考 译 文 (1)

哈里·马什是位汽车驾驶执照考核员，凡是想取得驾驶执照的人他都要进行考核。一天，他象往常一样从办公室出来，看见路边停着一辆汽车，车里坐着一个年轻人。他进入车内，坐在驾驶员身旁，吩咐他检查车灯，刹车，以及其他一切例行事项。司机一声不吱，迅速无误地完成了各项动作。

然后，哈里吩咐司机发动引擎，开车前进。接着又吩咐他向右拐进一条小街，停车，倒车进入另一条小街，再开回办公室。

在路上，司机有礼貌地对哈里说：“请您告诉我：干嘛让我做这些事？我只不过开车经过这个镇子，刚刚停车看看地图。”



George was a newspaper reporter who worked for a small local newspaper in a country town. Nothing much ever happened there.

One day George's boss sent for him.

'George,' he said, 'James Bright is making a speech at the Town Hall tonight. I want you to go and report on it for us.'

'James Bright?' said George. 'He's a terrible old fool. He never says anything worth reporting.'

'Bright is our best-known local politician,' said the boss. 'We'll have to print a report on that speech.'

So George went to the meeting and Bright spoke for two hours without stopping. When George got back to the office at last, the boss was waiting for him.

'Well, George,' he said. 'What did the old man say?'

'Absolutely nothing,' said George.

The boss wasn't surprised. 'All right, George,' he said. 'You'd better not write more than two and a half columns on it.'

练习

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. George was a journalist. ☐
2. James Bright was a reporter too. ☐
3. George did not have a high opinion of James Bright. ☐
4. James Bright spoke for a long time. ☐
5. George's boss told him to write quite a lot about his speech. ☐

B Answer these questions.

1. What did George's boss ask him to do one day?

2. What did George answer?
3. And what did his boss say then?
4. What happened at the meeting?
5. What did George's boss ask him when he came back?
6. What did George answer?
7. How did his boss feel about this?
8. And what did he tell George to do?

C Put one word in each space. All the correct words are in the story on page 5.

It is difficult to imagine how some people manage to get elected to represent us. Many a ... is much less clever than he pretends: in fact, he may be a complete ... Of course, our national representatives tend to be better than our ... ones, but these at least usually know our problems. However, it must often be very annoying for a ... who is working for a small newspaper to be sent by his ... to ... on a ... made by someone whom he considers not ... listening to. But newspapers have to fill their ... with something every day, so they often ... things which are really very boring.

参 考 译 文 (2)

乔治是乡镇小报的记者。平时，那里没啥重大新闻。

有一天，乔治的老板派人找他。

“乔治，”他说：“今晚詹姆斯·布赖特将在镇公所发表演说，我想让你去写篇报导。”

“詹姆斯·布赖特？”乔治说：“他是个十足的老傻瓜，从没讲过什么值得报导的东西。”

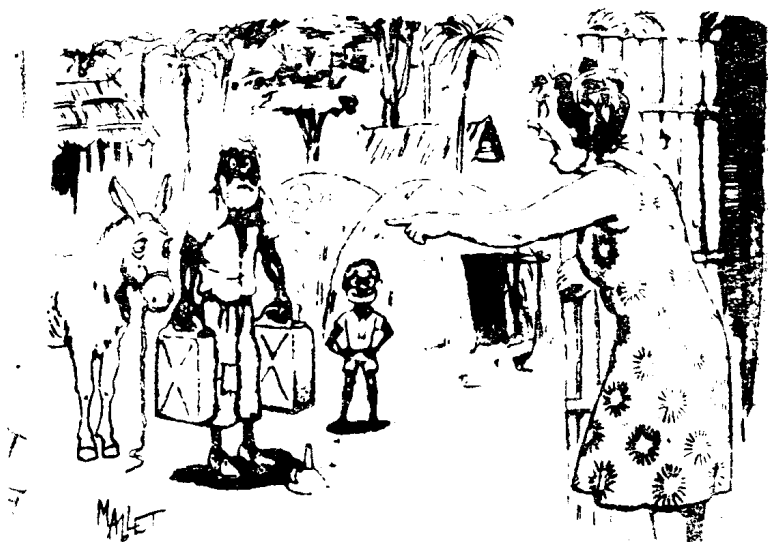
“布赖特是本地最有名的政治家”，老板说，“关于这次讲演必须刊登一篇报导。”

于是，乔治去参加演讲会，布赖特滔滔不绝地讲了两个小时。当乔治回到办公室时，老板正在等他。

“怎么样，乔治，”他说：“那老头说了些什么？”

“空洞无物。”乔治说。

老板并不感到意外，他说：“好吧，乔治，你写的报导最好不要超过两栏半。”



Many years ago an English lady in Africa was invited by an important local chief to be the first person to use his new bath—the first one in that part of Africa.

The lady went into the bath-house, turned on the taps and got into the nice, warm water. But when she looked up, she was frightened to see an eye watching her through a hole. She got out, dressed and ran outside. She saw an old man and a donkey there. He was carrying a petrol tin of hot water in one hand, and one of cold water in the other, and in front of him

were two funnels.

'Why were you watching me in my bath?' the lady asked him angrily.

The man answered politely, 'I have to see which tap you turn on, madam, or I don't know whether to pour in hot or cold water.'

练习

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. The English lady had never been in a real bath in that part of Africa before. ☐
2. The water came out of the taps as usual. ☐
3. The lady was afraid when she saw an animal in a hole in the bathroom. ☐
4. She ran out and saw a man carrying petrol to heat the water. ☐
5. The old man was looking at the lady because he did not often see white women. ☐
6. The bath did not have running hot and cold water unless the old man was there. ☐

B Answer these questions.

1. What was the English lady invited to do?

2. What did she do?
3. What gave her a fright?
4. What did she do about it?
5. What did she see when she went out?
6. What was he doing?
7. What did the lady ask him?
8. And what did he answer?

C *Opposites:* Put a word beginning with *im*, *in*, *ir* or *un*, or a word ending in *less*, in each space.

1. The English lady was not a patient woman; she was an ... one.
2. She was not fair to the old man; she was ... to him. *unfair*
3. If he did not look through the hole, he would not be able to see which tap the lady was turning; he would be ... to see it.
4. When she thought about it, she realized that she had not been very just to him; in fact, she had been very ...
5. She had not given him justice; she had done him an ...
6. There was no running water, so it was not use-

ful to connect the taps to pipes: it was ... to do so.

7. It was not possible to get running water in that place: it was quite ... to do this.
8. The lady had baths at regular times every day: she never had a bath at an ... time.

参 考 译 文 (3)

许多年以前，一位客居非洲的英国太太被当地的重要首领请去首先使用他的新澡堂——这是该地区的第一个澡堂。

这位太太进入浴室后，把两个水龙头都打开，全身泡在惬意的热水中。然而，抬头一望，她吓坏了，有只眼睛贴着小孔在看她洗澡。她急忙起身，穿上衣服，跑向门外。她看见门外站着一位老人和一头毛驴。老人一只手提着一只装热水的汽油桶，另一只手提着一只装冷水的汽油桶，面前还有两个漏斗。

“你为什么偷看我洗澡？”这位太太生气地问。

老人有礼貌地回答道：“夫人，我得看看您打开的是那个水龙头，不然我不知道该加热水还是该加冷水？”。