



英汉对照

幽默故事精选

第四集

SELECTIONS
FROM
ENGLISH HUMOROUS STORIES



金盾出版社

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内 容 提 要

本书从英美当今流行的大量幽默故事中,精选出 61 则诙谐有趣、耐人寻味的故事,配以译文、注释、插图和练习题及答案,供大、中学生和英语自学者课外阅读。

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前 言

幽默的目的是给人带来欢乐,令人发笑。笑是一种审美效果。凭借幽默,我们可以笑代替苦恼,以轻松愉悦的心情排除生活与工作中的紧张和焦虑。

人世间充满了幸福和欢乐,但也存在许多矛盾,如好与坏、美与丑、善与恶、爱与恨、真与假,等等。这便为幽默的产生提供了必要的条件。当人们利用幽默来处理矛盾和不协调现象时,笑也就产生了。

幽默的种类繁多,有滑稽的、荒诞的、不协调的和出人意外的。幽默的表现形式也灵活多样,有双关语、俏皮话、讽刺、夸张、格言警句、打油诗、轶事、荒诞故事,等等。

幽默是一种智慧的表现。在西方社会,评判一个人的重要标准之一是看其是否具有幽默感。人们一般愿意和具有幽默感的人在一起。例如,学生希望老师富有幽默感,聆听其讲课如沐春风;孩子们喜欢与有幽默感的父母相伴,在其熏陶下,他们有可能性情活泼,体魄健壮;雇员喜欢为有幽默感的老板工作,因为彼此之间容易缩短距离。善于幽默的人总是充满生机与活力。无论是平民百姓,还是叱咤风云的政治人物都可利用幽默来改善自我形象,增添个人魅力,融洽与他人的关系。

本集选编的幽默故事涉及英美社会的许多方面,如宗教、商业、教育、科技、娱乐和日常生活等等。故事中描绘了各类人物,上至国家总统,下至平民百姓,还有虔诚的牧师、狡诈的商人、愚蠢的醉汉以及幼稚的学童。这些故事语言地道、幽默

生动、寓意深刻、通俗易懂,而且具有较强的时代气息。我们相信这些幽默故事可帮助读者增进对英美社会的了解,扩大英语词汇量,激发学习英语的兴趣。同时,我们也希望这本小册子能为培养和增强您的幽默感作出一点贡献。

李经纬

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2003年2月

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1. HEAVEN SYSTEM

A minister dies and is waiting in line at the Pearly Gates. Ahead of him is a guy who's dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket, and jeans. Saint Peter addresses this guy, "Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?"



The guy replies, "I'm Joe Cohen, taxi-driver, of Noo Yawk City."

Saint Peter consults his list. He smiles and says to the taxi-driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

The taxi-driver goes into Heaven with his robe and staff, and it's the minister's turn. He stands erect and booms out, "I am Joseph Snow, pastor of Saint Mary's for the last forty-three years."

Saint Peter consults his list. He says to the minister, "Take

this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute," says the minister. "That man was a taxi-driver and he gets a silken robe and golden staff. How can this be?"

"Up here, we work by results," says Saint Peter. "While you preached, people slept; while he drove, people prayed."

天国制度

一位牧师死后来到天国之门排队等候。他前面的一个人戴着太阳镜，身穿花哨的衬衫和皮夹克，还有一条牛仔裤。圣·彼得对这个人说道：“告诉我你是谁，这样我才能知道是否让你进入天国。”

这个人回答说：“我是乔·柯恩，纽约市的一名出租车司机。”

圣·彼得查了名单，然后微笑着对这位出租车司机说：“拿着这件丝绸长袍和这根金手杖，到天国去吧。”

于是，这位出租车司机拿着长袍和手杖进入了天国。这时轮到牧师了，他挺起腰板，瓮声瓮气地说道：“我是约瑟夫·斯诺，一位在圣·玛丽教堂任职 43 年的牧师。”

圣·彼得又核对了一下名单，对他说：“拿着这件棉袍和这根木手杖，到天国去吧。”

“等一等，”牧师说道，“那个人只是个出租车司机，但却拿着丝绸长袍和金手杖。怎么会这样呢？”

“在我们这儿，我们以结果论成绩，”圣·彼得回答道，“您在传道时，人人都睡着了；而他驾车时，人人都在祈祷。”

注释：

1. minister n. 教士, 牧师
2. wait in line 列队等待, 排队等候
3. the Pearly Gates [口语] 天国之门
4. be dressed in 穿着, 身着; 戴着
5. sunglasses 太阳镜, 墨镜
6. loud adj. (衣服颜色等) 俗艳的, 过于花哨的
7. jeans n. 牛仔裤
8. address v. 对……说话
9. the Kingdom of Heaven 天国, 天堂
10. Noo Yawk City = New York City 这是模仿这名男子的当地口音。

11. consult vt. 查阅, 查对
12. silken adj. 丝绸的, 丝制的
13. robe n. 袍子, 长袍
14. golden adj. 金色的, 金黄的
15. staff n. 手杖
16. erect adj. 直立的, 竖直的
17. boom out v. 瓮声说
18. pastor n. (基督教的) 牧师
19. wooden adj. 木头的, 木制的
20. preach v. 传道, 讲道
21. pray v. 祈祷, 祷告

练习:

A. Answer the following questions:

- (1) Why did Saint Peter want to have their names?
- (2) Why was the taxi-driver given a silken robe and golden staff while the minister was only given a cotton robe and wooden staff?

(3) How did the minister feel about it?

(4) Did the minister think highly of the taxi-driver?

B. Which of the following statements is correct according to the passage?

(1) "Be dressed in" in the passage means (a) wearing (b) putting on (c) getting into.

(2) Saint Peter addresses this guy. That is to say, (a) Saint Peter gives him the address (b) Saint Peter asks him for the address (c) Saint Peter speaks to him.

(3) While the taxi-driver drove, people prayed because (a) people believed in God (b) he drove badly (c) he was a good driver.

2. BAD LUCK

The woman's husband had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months, yet she had stayed by his bedside every single day. One day, when he came to, he motioned for her to come nearer.

As she sat by him, he whispered, eyes full of tears, "You know what? You have been with me all through the bad times. When I got fired, you were here to support me. When my business failed, you were here. When I got shot, you were by my side. When we lost the house, you stayed right here. When my health started failing, you were still by my side... You know what?"

"What dear?" She gently asked, smiling as her heart began to fill with warmth.

"I think you're bad luck."



霉运当头

一位女子的丈夫时而昏迷时而苏醒来,持续了几个月,但是她每天都守在他床边。一天,他苏醒过来,示意她靠近一点儿。

当她坐过来时,丈夫热泪盈眶,低声说:“你知道吗?在我困难时期,你一直陪伴在我身旁。我被解雇时,你在我身边支持我;我生意失败时,你在我这儿;我受伤时,你也留在我身边;我们失去房子时,你在我身边;我的健康状况衰退时,你仍然坚守在我的身旁,……你知道吗?”

“知道什么?”她微笑着轻声问道,内心感到暖融融的。

“我觉得你是倒霉鬼。”

注释:

1. slip vi. 溜走,悄悄行进
2. in and out 进进出出
3. coma n. [医] 昏迷
4. come to v. 苏醒,活过来
5. motion v. 示意
6. whisper v. 低声说,耳语
7. failing adj. (健康状况)衰退的,变差的
8. gently adv. 温柔地,轻轻地

练习:

Decide whether each of the following statements is true or false according to the passage.

- (1) The husband had been ill for several months.
- (2) She stayed by his bedside every day.

- (3) When the man was shot dead, she still remained by his side.
- (4) His wife was very faithful to him.
- (5) The husband thought that his wife had brought him bad luck.