

休闲英语



ENGLISH
ENTERTAINMENT

刘
崢
编著

弄巧成拙

英语幽默故事



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弄巧成拙

大学(北京)

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弄 巧 成 拙

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弄巧成拙

刘 峥 编著

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序

随着我国改革开放的深入,英语在我们生活和工作中的作用也越来越明显。无论是从事对外贸易、科技研究,还是参与体育比赛、文化活动,甚至与国外的亲友联系,几乎都要用到英语。尽管语言学家已经发明了世界语,但是世界上实际应用最广的语言仍是英语。就此而言,英语是真正的“世界语”,至少目前如此,这也就是为什么学习英语能成为一种世界性热潮的原因。最近十多年来,我国也有越来越多的人投入到英语学习中,他们孜孜不倦地学习英语,刻苦勤奋地钻研英语。这固然是自身生活和工作的需要,但同样也是改革开放的需要,既符合自己的个人利益,也符合国家和民族的利益。

但是,对许多英语学习者来说,学习英语却很不容易,因为他们中大多数人都没有机会接受专业的英语训练,而只是利用业余时间学习英语。这样他们不仅缺少学习英语的语言环境,而且对英语学习的方法也不是很了解,常把精力化在反复背诵单词和机械操练英语句型上。这样做当然也有必要,但是光是背诵和进行机械的句式操练,毕竟过于单调和枯燥,久而久之不仅使学习者产生沉重感乃至厌倦感,而且也很难取得好的学习效果。其实,学习

英语的方式是多种多样的,背诵单词和进行句式操练是一种方法,但除此之外还有更多的途径,譬如广泛大量的阅读也是一种提高英语学习效果的有效手段。

上海世界图书出版公司即将出版的《休闲英语》丛书将给广大英语学习者提供一种新的学习样式。这种学习样式不是单纯地为学习而学习,而是将学习、娱乐、休息三者有机地结合起来,使学习时不感枯燥,休息时不感负担,在欢快的气氛中不知不觉地将语言知识融汇贯通,寓学于休息之时,寓学于娱乐之中,达到事半功倍的效果。

计划中的《休闲英语》丛书有很多辑,有轻轻松松学英语系列,英汉对照的趣味幽默故事系列、名人演说系列、格言妙语系列,以及歌曲游戏系列等等。总之,《休闲英语》丛书的内容是丰富多彩的,它的面貌是活泼可爱的。我相信,它问世后一定会在不同年龄、不同层次、不同要求的英语学习者中找到知音,和大家成为好朋友。

戴炜栋

一九九四年十一月

1

A businessman was having a tough time lugging his lumpy, oversized travel bag onto the plane. Helped by a flight attendant, he finally managed to stuff it in the overhead bin. ‘Do you always carry such heavy luggage?’ she sighed.

‘No more,’ the man said. ‘Next time, I’m riding in the bag, and my partner can buy the ticket!’

一个商人拖着他那鼓鼓囊囊的特大号旅行袋登上飞机，真够费劲的。在一位机组乘务员的帮助下，他终于设法将旅行袋塞进了头顶上的行李箱。“您总是携带这么重的行李？”她叹息道。

“再也不会了，”那人说道，“下次，我待在旅行袋内，我的同伴买票！”

tough [tʌf] *a.* 费力的, 坚韧的

lug [lʌg] *v.* (用力地)拖, 硬扯

lumpy ['lʌmpi] *a.* 凹凸不平的, 起伏的

stuff [stʌf] *v.* 塞, 填

bin [bɪn] *n.* 箱子

sigh [saɪ] *n.* 叹气 *v.* 叹息

ride [raɪd] *v.* 骑, 乘, 搭载

2

I had asked my parents for a portrait of themselves, and after several years they finally had their picture taken by a professional photographer. When they gave me my copy, I was pleased to see that my usually serious-looking father was smiling.

‘How did he get Dad to smile?’ I asked my mother.

‘He,’ Mom replied, ‘was a she!’

我曾向父母要一张他们的合影，几年以后，他们终于让一位专业摄影师为他们拍了照。当他们将我要的那份交给我时，我高兴地看到我那平时不苟言笑的父亲正微笑着。

“他是怎么让爸爸笑的？”我问母亲。

“他？”妈妈回答，“是她！”

portrait [ˈpɔːtrɪt] *n.* 肖像, 相片

professional [prəˈfeʃənl] *a.* 职业的, 专业的

photographer [fəˈtɒɡrəfə] *n.* 摄影师

serious [ˈsiəriəs] *a.* 严肃的; 庄重的

3

When our daughter, Carolyn, was a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania, my husband called her frequently to make sure she was all right. He liked to phone on Saturday night, because it was date night.

One Saturday, about 10:45 P. M. , he called her room and was relieved when she picked up the phone. 'Oh, honey,' he said, 'I'm so glad you're back in your dorm.'

'Dad,' replied Carolyn, 'I'm just getting ready to go out!'

女儿卡罗琳在宾夕法尼亚大学读大一时，我丈夫频繁地给她打电话，以确信她一切安好。他喜欢在星期六晚上打电话，因为那是约会的良宵。

某个星期六，晚上十点三刻左右，他将电话打到她的房间。当她拿起电话时，他放心了。“嘿，宝贝，”他说，“很高兴你已回到宿舍。”

“爸，”卡罗琳答道，“我正准备外出！”

freshman [ˈfreʃmən] *n.* 大学一年级学生，新手

frequently [ˈfriːkwəntli] *ad.* 频繁地，经常地

date [deɪt] *n. v.* 日期，年代，约会

relieve [rɪˈliːv] *v.* 减轻，宽慰

pick up 拾起，掘，获得

dorm [dɔːm] *n.* 宿舍

4

My son, while a teaching assistant at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, had an important appointment after class one day. He put on a white shirt, a tie and a conservative dark suit. As he was leaving his apartment, he noticed his mouse trap had a victim. Holding the trap carefully out in front of him, he walked to the dump. A professor happened by, took in the situation and asked, 'What time is the funeral?'

一天课后，我儿子有一个重要约会，那时他在劳伦斯的堪萨斯大学任助教。他穿上白衬衣，戴上领带，套上正统的深色西装。正要离开房间时，他发现鼠夹上有一个牺牲品。他小心谨慎地将鼠夹拿在身前，向垃圾堆走去。有位教授碰巧经过，看到此番情景，问道：“葬礼何时举行？”

appointment [ə'pɔɪntmənt] *n.* 任命, 约会

conservative [kən'sə:vətɪv] *a.* 保守的, 守旧的

apartment [ə'pɑ:tmənt] *n.* 房间, 一套公寓
房间

trap [træp] *n.* 陷阱, 夹子

victim ['vɪktɪm] *n.* 受害者, 牺牲品

dump [dʌmp] *n.* 垃圾堆场, 垃圾堆

take in 把...尽收眼底, 接受

funeral ['fju:nərəl] *n.* 葬礼

5

My husband, Chet, a prospective juror, was being grilled by the defense attorney. The lawyer asked a series of questions about personal brushes with the law, everything from arrests to minor violations, and Chet answered each, 'No.'

'You mean to tell me,' scoffed the lawyer, 'that you've never even had a traffic ticket? In other words, you consider yourself an exemplary citizen?'

'No,' Chet replied coolly, 'just lucky.'

我丈夫切特，一名未来的陪审员，正在接受辩护律师的严厉盘问。律师提出一系列有关个人同法律抵触的问题，包括从被捕到轻度违法的每件事情，切特每次都回答：“不。”

“您是想告诉我，”律师揶揄道，“您甚至连违反交通的传票也没有得到过？换句话说，您自认为是

一位模范公民?”

“不,”切特冷冷地答道,“只是运气好。”

prospective [prəs'pektiv] *a.* 预期的, 未来的

juror ['dʒʊərə] *n.* 陪审员

grill [gril] *v.* 炙烤, 严厉盘问

defense attorney 辩护律师

lawyer ['lɔ:jə] *n.* 律师

brush [brʌʃ] *n.* 刷子, 争吵 *v.* 刷, 掠过

arrest [ə'rest] *v. n.* 逮捕, 拘留

violation [ˌvai-ə'leɪʃən] *n.* 违反, 妨碍, 亵渎

scoff [skɒf] *n. v.* 嘲弄, 嘲笑

exemplary [ig'zempləri] *a.* 模范的

coolly [ku:li] *ad.* 凉地, 冷静地, 冷淡地

6

One very mild day, the windows in school were wide open. My eighth-grade music was enthusiastically belting out the chorus to the song 'Sloop John B': 'Let me go home, I want to go home. Well, I feel so broke up, I want to go home.'

Our singing was interrupted by a first-grader from the room below, who handed me a note from her teacher, 'Dear Anne,' it said. 'Could you please switch to another song? My little ones are crying to go home, and it's only one o'clock!'

在一个非常晴朗的日子，学校所有的窗户都打着。我教的八年级音乐班正在起劲地大唱“约翰B舰”的合唱：“让我回家，我要回家。哦，我是如此疲惫，我想回家。”

我们的歌唱被楼下的一个一年级学生打断，她交给我一张她老师的字条：“亲爱的安妮”，上面写道，“请你是否换一首歌？我的小家伙们都闹着要回家，而现在只有一点钟！”

grade [greɪd] *n.* 等级、级别

enthusiastically [ɪnˌθjuːzɪˈæstɪkəli] *ad.* 热情地

belt [belt] *v.* 用带膊住

chorus ['kɔːrəs] *n.* 合唱

sloop [sluːp] *n.* 海岸炮舰，小军舰

interrupt [ˌɪntəˈrʌpt] *v.* 中断，打断

switch [swɪtʃ] *v.* 接通，转换