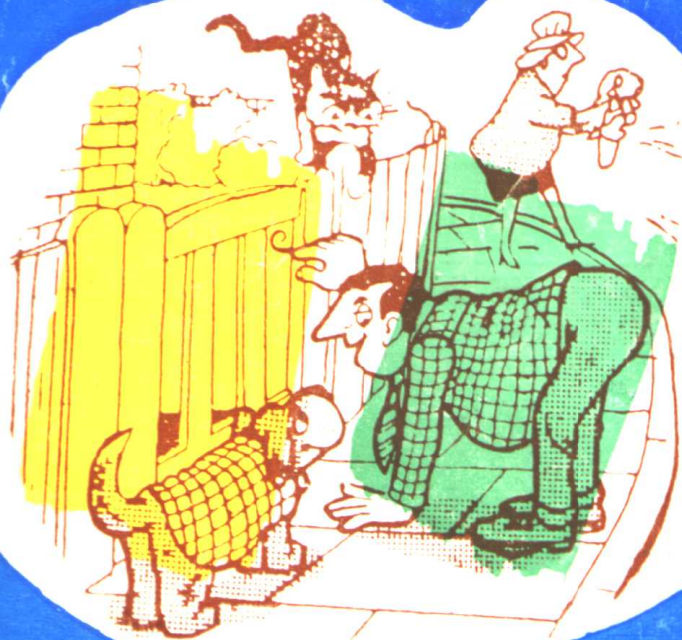


莫友元等 编译

INTERMEDIATE STEPS TO UNDERSTANDING

英语趣味小品

第七册



中南工业大学出版社

英语趣味小品

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前 言

幽默的妙处，世人皆知。

首先，幽默有如荆棘丛中一朵艳丽欲滴的鲜花，萧瑟中独显高贵、洒脱；它又有如一片和煦的阳光，光辉遍洒人间，给生活带来万种生机及祥和；它更是调料剂，融解矛盾，化干戈为玉帛、平淡之中显神奇。没有幽默，生活将变成一潭死水。

确实，无论是诸朋久聚、世人相交，还是孤人独处，只要是有了幽默的点缀，就能大大缩短心与心的距离，拒离愁别恨于千里外。谁能说幽默、诙谐的语言不是对亲朋至友的最好馈赠、人生旅途上的最好伴侣？

除此之外，编译本书的目的还在于为广大英语爱好者提供一本极好的读物，即通过对英语幽默的欣赏，达到把握英语语言精神、培养英语语感的目的。它能寓学于乐，激发读者学习英语的热情。为帮助读者更好地理解原文，译者对较难的生词加了注释，并配有参考译文。读者应先反复阅读原文，仔细揣摩推敲，因为有些幽默是比较直观的，一看就知，而大多却需要读者从多角度、多层次去体验。通过对英语幽默的欣赏，读者也能扩大自己的英语词汇量，更加深对词的用法的理解。读者如能一天一篇或一天数篇，持之以恒，定有大的收益。

从历史角度看，西方的文化传统中更重视幽默的成份。我们不难在其最早的文学作品以及社会生活的各个角落轻而易举地找到幽默的痕迹。这种由来已久的文化“遗传”不能不说对

社会的发展、社会成员个性的形成起到了某些不可言喻的作用。

近代以来的国人也越来越看重了幽默的作用。很多公司将是否具有幽默感做为挑选职工的先决条件之一，更有芸芸妙龄女郎选择“阿哥”唯幽默为上。此皆情理之中，谁愿意天天跟“冷若冰霜”的人呆在一起呢？

不同的民族有着不同的幽默感，又因为幽默隐晦、机智的特点，往往给完全对等、神貌相合的翻译带来困难。所以，欣赏英语幽默的最好方法莫过于“原汁原味”地去体验了，书中所提供的译文主要以直译为主。

本书中的幽默皆是译者花了多年功夫从国外各报刊杂志中挑选出来的，可谓优中选优。参加编译工作的还有张新民、陈仁秀，本书最后三万字由陈小河同志翻译。肖立明教授在百忙中校阅了部分稿件。

愿您与她结缘！

编者 1993. 12. 20



I promised my girlfriend a gold necklace for her birthday, but when the jeweler quoted a price for one we liked, I let out a long, low whistle. "And how much are they then?" I asked, pointing to another tray.

"You, sir," replied the jeweler, "about three whistles."

Notes:

1. quot [kwout] vt. 复述
2. whistle ['hwisl] n. 口哨
3. tray [trei] n. (浅) 盘

参 考 译 文 (1)

我答应过我女朋友在她过生日时给她买一条金项链，在首饰店，当珠宝商报出我们看中的那条项链的价格时，我轻声地吹了一个长口哨。“那么，这些项链的价格怎样呢？”我手指着放在另一个盘子里的项链问道。“先生，对你来说，”珠宝商回答道，“大约值三声口哨。”

2

At the college, I fell into a cycle of classes, studying, working, and sleeping. I didn't realize how long I had neglected writing my family until I received the following note:

“Dear son, your mother and I enjoyed your last letter. Of course, we were much younger then, and more impressionable. Love, Dad.”

Notes

1. fell into a cycle: 陷入一个循环之中
2. neglect [nɪɡlekt] vt. 忽略
3. impressionable [ɪm'preʃənəbl] a. 敏感的; 易激动的

参 考 译 文 (2)

上大学时,我陷入了上课、学习、工作和睡觉这样的循环之中。直到有一天我收到下面这张短笺,我才意识到自己已有多久忘记了给家里写信。

“亲爱的儿子,我和你妈妈很高兴收到你上次写来的信,当然,那个时候我们比现在要年轻得多,而且更容易动感情。致爱。爸爸。”

3

As the man and wife returned to their seats in the dark auditorium, the husband asked a fellow seated on the aisle, “Did someone step on your feet while going out at intermission?”

“Yes, you did,” he replied, expecting an apology.

“Okay, honey,” the man said to his wife, “this is our row.”

Notes:

1. auditorium [ˌɔːdi'tɔːriəm] n. 听众席, 礼堂
2. aisle [aɪl] n. 侧廊; 走道
3. intermission [ɪntə'mɪʃən] n. 幕间休息

参 考 译 文 (3)

当一对夫妻重新回到漆黑一团的观众席找他们的座位时，丈夫问坐在过道边的小伙子：“刚才幕间休息有人出去时是不是踩了你的脚？”

“正是，是你干的吧，”他回答说，并等待着前者的道歉。

“好啦，宝贝，”丈夫对妻子说：“这就是我们坐的那一排。”

4



While I was working for an airport weather service, a colleague received a telephone one day from a person who raced pigeons. The man inquired about wind-flow patterns and other technical matters, and my colleague thoroughly explained the

weather conditions. But the caller seemed unable to grasp the information and asked that it be repeated. To this, my friend responded wearily, "Please, let me talk to the pigeon!"

Notes:

1. inquire about: 询问
2. wind-flow pattern: 风向
3. grasp [græsp] vt. 抓住; 理解
4. wearily ['wiərili] ad. 厌倦地; 不耐烦地

参 考 译 文 (4)

当我在航空气象部门工作时,有一天,一位同事接到一个竞鸽人打来的电话。那位男子询问了风向和其它一些技术性的问题。我的同事详细地给他讲解了天气情况。但是,打电话的人还是弄不明白,要求同事再重复一遍。对此,我的朋友不耐烦地回答说:“请让我跟鸽子说话得了!”

5

A friend of mine went shopping for a new swimsuit. When she returned empty handed, her young son asked why. "Oh,"

she replied in disgust. "Why, everything I tried on looked awful! These swimsuits made me look like a forty-year-old woman!"

"How old are you?" her son asked.

She replied, "Of course, I'm a forty-year-old woman!"

Notes

1. swimsuit: 游泳衣
2. disgust [dis'gʌst] n. 厌恶, 憎恶
3. awful ['ɔ:fʊ:l] a. 非常的, 极度的

参 考 译 文 (5)

一个朋友到商店去买一件新的游泳衣,当她空手而归时,她年幼的儿子问她为什么没买着,“噢”她厌恶地回答道,“为什么?我试了所有的游泳衣,它们都难看死了!这些游泳衣使我看起来象个四十岁的妇女!”

“那你多大呢?”她儿子问。

她回答说:“我当然是四十岁啦!”

6

My co-workers were aware of my problems with our new puppy. One morning when they asked, "How is Nugget?" I replied, "It's a good news and bad news day. The bad news is that Nugget ate my favorite shoe. The good news is that it was the mate to the shoe he ate last week."

Notes:

1. aware [ə'weə] (用作表语) 知道的, 意识到的
2. puppy ['pʌpi] n. 幼犬; 小动物
3. mate [meɪt] vi. 配对

参 考 译 文 (6)

我的同事们都知道我为我们家的那条新买的小狗伤透了脑筋。一天早上, 当他们问我: “纽金特怎么样了?” 我回答说: “今天既有好消息, 又有坏消息。坏消息是纽金特将我的一只心爱的鞋啃掉了; 好消息则是它这次啃掉的这一只正好与上次啃掉的那一只是一双。”

7

When I attended the University of North Alabama, I had a friend who was notorious for her misspelled words. One day she came back from a book sale and announced she had found an answer to her spelling difficulties. Then she held up the book she bought. It was entitled *How to improve your selling*.

Notes:

1. notorious [nou'tɔ:riəs] a. 臭名昭著的
2. misspell ['mis'spel] vt. 拼错
3. was entitled: 标题为

参 考 译 文 (7)

在北阿拉巴马大学就读时, 我的一位朋友因其总是拼写错误而臭名远扬。一天, 她从一个书展回来, 宣称她已找到了解决拼写错误 (spelling) 症结的办法。然后她举起了她所买的书, 书名是《如何改善你的销售 (selling)》。

8

The teacher was giving her class of seven-year-olds a natural history lesson. "Worker ants!" she told them, "can carry pieces of food five times their own weight. What do you conclude from this?"

One child was ready for the answer: "They don't have a union."

Notes:

1. conclude from: 从...得出结论
2. 'union ['ju:njən] n. 工会

参 考 译 文 (8)

一个老师正在给一个七岁班的学生上自然史课。“工蚁，”她对她们讲，“能运载比自身体重重五倍的食物，你们由此可得出什么结论呢？”

一个孩子胸有成竹地回答：“那是因为他们没有自己的工会。”

"I'm really worried," said one teen-ager to another. "Dad slaves away at his job so I'll never want for anything and so I can go to college. Mom spends every day washing and ironing and cleaning up after me, and she takes care of me when I'm sick."

"So what are you worried about?"

"I'm afraid they might try to escape!"

参 考 译 文 (9)

"我真的是忧心忡忡,"一个少年对另一个少年说,"爸爸对工作克尽职守、勤勤恳恳。妈妈关照我,她每天帮我烫衣服,打扫卫生,当我生病时她更是殷勤倍至。"所以,我再无所企求,也可以去上大学。

"那你还担心什么呀?"

"我在担心他俩有可能想逃跑!"

10

During our morning break at the factory, it was obvious from the conversation that none of us was having a good day. One co-worker commented that she wished it were Friday. While we all silently agreed her, I jokingly said she should stop wishing her life away. "Well; then," she shot back, "I wish it were last Friday!"

Notes:

1. comment ['kɒment] vi. 评头品足
2. jokingly: 开玩笑地

参 考 译 文 (10)

上午, 工厂工间休息的时候, 从大家的谈话中听得出, 显然那天没有一个人过得痛快。一个同事说, 她真希望那天是星期五。大家都默然赞许, 我开玩笑说她不应该希望自己的生命快点飞逝而去。“好啊, 那么,” 她回驳我说: “那我就希望今天是上个星期五。”

11

After years of persuasion, my neighbor finally talked her mother into having a cataract operation. Returning home from the hospital, the mother sat down in front of the picture window, which looks out on a lake.

"Do you notice any difference in the view, Mom?" the daughter asked.

"I certainly do," the mother replied. "Don't you ever dust?"

Notes:

1. persuasion [pə (:) 'swiʒən] n. 说服, 劝服
2. cataract ['kætərækt] n. 大瀑布; 白内障
3. dust [dʌst] vi. 去掉灰尘; 扬起灰尘

参 考 译 文 (11)

做了许多年的工作之后, 我的邻居终于劝服她母亲去做了白内障手术。从医院回来之后, 她母亲坐在一个观望风景的窗口前, 往外望去可以看到一个湖。

"你看见风景跟以前有什么不同的地方吗? 妈妈。" 女儿问。