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英語幽默小品



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前 言

阅读在英语学习中是必不可少的一部分,但阅读又往往是枯燥无味的。纵观当今图书市场,英语阅读材料可谓品种繁多,但真正能引起读者阅读兴趣的却很少。所以,我们组织编写了《英语幽默小品》一书。书中精选了83篇英汉对照的幽默小品文,故事的内容幽默风趣,回味无穷,语言精炼地道,言简意赅。在每一篇故事后还附有赏析,便于读者细细体味其中蕴含的哲理,得到更多的启示,更深刻地理解幽默的内涵,使读者在一种轻松愉快的气氛中巩固已学过的词汇,提高阅读能力和欣赏水平。

本书适用于广大英语爱好者和青年学生。

由于水平有限,不当之处,恳请读者批评指正。

编者

1. Taking a Chance

Mr. Grey was the manager of a small office in London. He lived in the country, and came up to work by train. He liked walking from the station to his office unless it was raining, because it gave him some exercise.

One morning he was walking along the street when a stranger stopped him and said to him, "You may not remember me, sir, but seven years ago I came to London without a penny^① in my pockets. I stopped you in this street and asked you to lend me some money, and you lend me five pounds, because you said that you were willing to take a chance^② so as to give a man a start on the road to success^③."

Mr. Grey thought for a few moments and then said, "Yes, I remember you. Go on with your story." "Well," answered the stranger, "Are you still willing to take a chance?"

① penny ['peni] n. 便士

② take a chance 冒险

③ success [sək'ses] n. 成功, 胜利

1. 冒险

格雷先生是伦敦一家小公司的经理。他住在郊区，乘火车上班。除了雨天，他喜欢从车站步行到公司，借此锻炼身体。

一天清早，他正走在街上，突然一个陌生人拦住他说：“先生，您也许不记得我了。七年前我身无分文来到伦敦，在这条街上我拦住您向您借钱，您借给我 5 英镑。您说，为了帮助一个人在成功之路上有个起点，您愿意冒一次险。”

格雷先生想了一会儿说：“哦，我记起来了。你后来怎样了。”“是这样，”那位陌生人答道，“您愿意再冒一次险吗？”

情景再现

这位陌生人先讲了自己经历的一半，然后卖了个关子，“诱导”对方回答的方向，最后终于道出了真相，产生了戏剧性的幽默效果。

2. The Watchful Woman

Helen lived with her sister Mary. Both of them were about seventy-five years old, and neither of them had ever married. They had a small, old car, and when they wanted to go somewhere, which they did very rarely^①, Mary always drove, because her eyes were better.

One weekend they drove to a large town to look at some things which they had read about in the newspaper. Neither^② of them had been to that town before.

They were driving along in a lot of traffic^③ when they turned right into a street which cars were not allowed to go into. There was a policeman there, and he blew his whistle^④, but Mary did not stop, so he got on to his motor-cycle^⑤ and followed them.

After he had ordered them to stop, he said, "Didn't you hear me blow my whistle?"

"Yes, we did," admitted Mary politely, "but Mummy told us never to stop when men whistle at us."

①rarely ['ræli] *adv.* 很少, 难得

②neither ['naiðə] *pron.* 两者中无一

③traffic ['træfik] *n.* 交通, 交通量

④whistle ['wisl] *n.* 口哨, 哨子 *vi.* 吹口哨

⑤motor-cycle *n.* 摩托车

2. 警惕的女人

海伦和妹妹玛丽住在一起，两人都七十五岁左右，从未结婚。她们有一辆又小又旧的汽车，但她们很少外出。如果想出去，总是由玛丽开车，因为她的视力好一些。

一个周末她们驱车去一座大城市，想看看报纸上登载过的一些用品。她们以前都没去过那座城市。

路上交通很拥挤。她们向右拐上了一条禁止车辆通行的道路。路口有一位警察吹响了哨子，但玛丽没有停车。于是警察骑上摩托车追赶她们。

他命令她们停车后说，“你们没听到我吹哨子吗？”

“哦，我们听到了，”玛丽彬彬有礼地答道，“可是妈咪曾告诉我们，当男人向我们吹口哨时千万别停下来。”

欣赏

多么可爱的老太太！七十高龄竟然保存着一份少女般的警觉和天真。正因为如此，才能产生强烈的反差，从而产生幽默效果。

3. My Cat

Our young daughter had adopted^① a stray^② cat. To my distress^③, he began to use the back of our new sofa as a scratching^④ post. "Don't worry," my husband reassured^⑤ me. "I'll have him trained in no time."

I watched him for several days as my husband patiently "trained" our new pet. Whenever the cat scratched, my husband deposited^⑥ him outdoors to teach him a lesson.

The cat learned quickly. For the next 16 years, whenever he wanted to go outside, he scratched the back of sofa.

① adopt [ə'dɒpt] *vt.* 收养

② stray [streɪ] *adj.* 迷路的, 走失的

③ distress [dis'tres] *n.* 苦恼

④ scratch [skrætʃ] *vt.* 搔, 抓

⑤ reassure [ˌri:ə'ʃʊə] *vt.* 使放心; 再向……保证

⑥ deposit [di'pɒzɪt] *vt.* 存放, 寄存

3. 我的猫

我的小女儿收养了一只迷路的猫。令我恼火的是,它开始将家里那张新沙发的背面当作抓痒之地。“别担心,”我丈夫向我保证,“我会很快把它训练好。”

在这以后的几天里我观察着我丈夫耐心地“训练”我们的新宠物的情景。只要猫一抓沙发,我丈夫就把它放到室外以示教训。

这只猫学得很快。在以后的16年里,每当它想出去,它就抓沙发背面。



这是一个验证巴甫洛夫“条件反射”理论的很好例子。可惜猫的主人没有用对地方。

