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# 故事袋

中级

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说到"故事袋",大家都会想到一本本带给我们无限快乐的故事书吧!本书精心挑选的精彩故事和脍炙人口的名篇佳作,能充分调动学习者的兴趣,在把注意力集中于故事情节的同时,又可以达到学习英语的目的,将英语学习寓于有趣的故事阅读中,轻轻松松学英语。

为了方便大家阅读,我们把英语单词分为两个板块,生僻的单词我们用斜体标注,并附以注释;考试中经常考的单词,在中文翻译中专门留出,以考验学习者的记忆能力,并在文章的最后附以注释及例句,供学习者深入掌握。

本书运用"用耳朵轻松听故事"的学习方法,为读者创造一个全英语的环境,使读者无论是散步、乘公车还是逛街,都能随时随地听英



语、听故事,真正炼就一双"英语耳"。此外,与本书配套的MP3光盘,由美籍教师倾情朗读,吐字清晰,发音地道,感情充沛,并配以相应风格的背景音乐,是很好的听力材料。

本系列书共分三本:《故事袋·初级》、《故事袋·中级》和《故事袋·高级》。三本书的内容由易到难,由浅入深。《故事袋·中级》共分为六部分,包括趣味篇、感人篇、童话篇、智慧篇、奇妙篇和哲理篇。一个个故事也许会勾起你对童年往事的回忆,也许会引起你对生活的深度思考,也许会给予你人生经验的指导,让你在故事中学英语,在故事中品人生。

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## 第一章 Part 1



趣味篇



# The Greenhorn<sup>1</sup> and the Mule Egg



## 傻瓜和驴蛋

Well now, there was a chap that got real sick of working in the big city. One day, he quit his job, packed up his wife and kiddies, and hightailed it<sup>2</sup> to *Kansas*<sup>1</sup> to become a farmer, bought a big parcel of land with a grand old *barn*<sup>2</sup> and some fields just ready to plow<sup>3</sup> and plant.

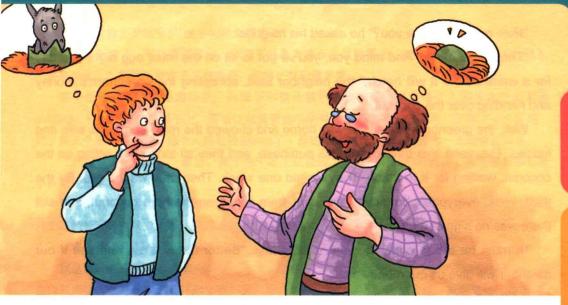
Now, being a bit of a greenhorn, the poor fellow didn't know where to start with that farm. His wife suggested that they get a mule to pull the plow for them, and the greenhorn thought this was a splendid<sup>4</sup> idea. He set off down the road to visit their neighbor and ask him where he could buy a mule.

Well, that neighbor was a bit of a wag. He'd sized up<sup>5</sup> his new neighbor as a greenhorn in about five seconds and decided to have a bit of fun with him.

"Well, you could advertise for a mule in the local paper," the neighbor said. "But if you want to do it in the Kansas way, well then you should get yourself a mule egg and hatch<sup>3</sup> your own. That way you can train the mule up from birth to do exactly as you want."

The greenhorn's eyes got real wide. "I didn't know mules hatched from eggs," he said excitedly. "Where do I get one?"

"It just so happens I have one mule egg left from the last batch I raised," the neighbor said. He went into the shed and came out with a round, hairy *coconut*<sup>4</sup>. The greenhorn's eyes lit up.



听好了,从前,有个家伙,他厌倦了在大城市工作。一天,他辞掉了工作,领着妻子和孩子,hightailed it,来到堪萨斯州,他想在这儿当一个农夫。他买了很大一片地,这块地里有一个很大的旧谷仓和几块正待plow和种的田地。

但问题来了。这个可怜的家伙是个经营农场的生手,面对这个农场,他无从下手。他的妻子出了个主意,她认为可以弄头驴来替他们耕地。这个生手觉得这是个splendid主意。于是他立刻动身去拜访他的邻居,他想问问邻居在哪儿可以买到驴。

他的这个邻居喜欢找乐子。他在五秒钟内就sized up这个人是个生手,于是打算小小地捉弄他一下。

"其实你可以在当地报纸上刊登一则买驴的广告,"邻居说,"但你既然来了堪萨斯州,根据这里的做法,你该买一个驴蛋自己孵一头驴。你得亲手把驴带大,它才会对你言听计从。"

这个生手睁大了眼睛说:"我还真不知道驴是从蛋里孵出来的呢。"他兴奋地问道: "那我该去哪买驴蛋呢?"

"正巧我这有颗蛋,记得上次我养驴的时候剩了一颗。"邻居说。他钻进棚屋,拿出来一个圆圆的、毛茸茸的椰子。这个生手的眼睛都亮了。



- 1. Kansas ['kænzəs] n. 堪萨斯州 (美国州名)
- 2. barn [ba:n] n. 谷仓; 畜棚
- 3. hatch [hætʃ] v. 孵;孵化
- 4. coconut ['kəukənʌt] n. 椰子

"How much do I owe you?" he asked his neighbor.

"That'll be a dollar. And mind you, you've got to sit on the mule egg night and day for a week before it will hatch," the neighbor said, accepting the greenhorn's money and handing over the coconut.

Well, the greenhorn ran all the way home and showed the mule egg to his wife and kiddies. Everyone was thrilled<sup>6</sup> with his purchase, and they all took turns sitting on the coconut, waiting for it to hatch. They waited one week. Then they waited two. By the third week, everyone's bottoms were sore<sup>7</sup> from sitting on the hard coconut, and still there was no sign of a mule.

"It must be a bad egg," the wife said at last. "Better throw it out and see if our neighbor will give us our money back."

As the disappointed family watched, the greenhorn took the coconut outside and pitched it into the bushes. All at once, a giant *jackrabbit*<sup>5</sup> burst out of the tall grass next to the bushes and hopped away lickety-split.

"It's the baby mule!" shouted one of the kiddies. "Catch it, Pa! Catch it."

Well, the greenhorn ran after that long-eared critter as fast as he could go, shouting, "I'm your momma, baby mule! Please come back!" But he was no match for that jackrabbit. It *darted*<sup>6</sup> here and there; it slithered hither and yon; and finally it slid<sup>8</sup> down a hole in the ground and disappeared.

The greenhorn fell to the ground and lay panting in exhaustion<sup>9</sup>. A few moments later, his wife and kids caught up with him and pulled him to his feet.

"Where's our mule?" asked his wife.

"The dad-blame thing got away," said the greenhorn. "And I'm not sorry it did. That's the speediest mule I ever laid eyes on, and I don't aim to plow that fast!"

- 5. jackrabbit ['dʒæk,ræbɪt] n. 长耳大野兔 (主要生长于北美西部)
- 6. dart [da:t] v. 猛冲, 飞奔

"我该付你多少钱呢?" 生手问那个邻居。

"一美元好了。可我得提醒你,你得不分昼夜地坐在这颗蛋上,坐一个星期才行,直到孵出 小驴来为止。"邻居说着收下了他的钱,把椰子交到他手里。

这个生手迫不及待地跑回家、向妻子和孩子展示这枚驴蛋。家里每个人都为这个买卖而 thrilled, 他们轮流坐在椰子上, 等着这颗蛋孵出小驴来。他们等了一个星期, 又等了一个星期, 到了第三个星期的时候,每个人的屁股都sore了,而这个硬邦邦的椰子里面却一点动静也没有。

"这颗蛋肯定坏了,"最后,妻子终于忍不住说道,"我们最好把它扔掉,然后看看邻居能 不能把钱还给我们。"

于是,这万分失望的一家眼睁睁地看着这个生手把椰子拿出房门,抛入了灌木丛。忽然,一 只肥硕的长耳野兔从旁边那片长得很高的草丛里蹦出来,一溜烟就跳走了。

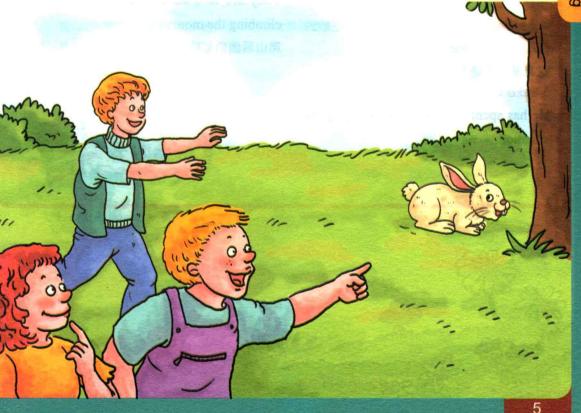
"看,是一只小驴!"一个孩子叫了起来,"抓住它!爸爸,抓住他!"

就这样,这个生手以最快的速度去追赶这只长耳朵家伙。他边跑边叫:"小驴,快回来,我 是你妈妈呀!"可他哪是长耳野兔的对手。这只兔子飞奔起来,还左蹦右跳,忽东忽西,最后slid 到一个地洞里、消失不见了。

这个生手跌倒在地上、躺在地上喘着粗气、exhaustion。过了一会儿、他的妻子和孩子追上 了他, 把他从地上拽了起来。

"我们的驴呢?"妻子问道。

"那个六亲不认的东西,它跑掉了。"生手说。"可是我感觉并不遗憾,因为这是我见过的 跑得最快的驴了,我可没打算那么快地耕地!"





1. **greenhorn** ['gri:nhɔːn] *n*. 生手; 无经验的人

Don't look down upon him. He is just a greenhorn.

别小看他了, 他只是没有经验而已。

2. **hightail it** ['haɪ,tel ɪt] (口)奔跑,迅速逃跑

You must hightail it out here.

你必须赶快离开这里。

3. plow [plau] v./n. 耕; 犁

Farmers plow their field at this time of the year.

在一年中的这个时候农夫们会耕作他们的土地。

4. **splendid** ['splendid] *a*. 极好的; 绝妙的 It is really a splendid scenery.

这真是一个绝色美景。

5. **size up** v. 估计; 打量

He has spent much time in sizing up the situation.

他花费很长时间来审时度势。

6. **thrilled** [θrɪld] a. 兴奋的; 激动的 The children were thrilled at the good news.

听到好消息,孩子们非常兴奋。

7. sore [so:] a. 疼痛的

He has a bad cold and sore throat.

他患了重感冒而且咽喉痛。

8. slide [slɪd] v. 滑动; 滑行

The scarf slid off my neck.

围巾从我脖子上滑下。

9. **exhaustion** [ɪgˈzɔːstʃən] n. 精疲力竭; 耗尽

They are in a state of exhaustion after climbing the mountain.

爬山后他们都精疲力竭了。

3 Mary Some Mary Manner of the manner of the

## Flying Turtle

### 会飞的乌龟

There was a large pond in the middle of a jungle<sup>1</sup>. All kinds of animals came to drink water from it. A small turtle had been living by the pond for many years. And he had become good friends with two *cranes*<sup>†</sup> who lived there too.

在jungle的中央有一个大水塘。所有的动物都来这里喝水。一只小乌龟在这池塘里生活很多年了,他和同住在这里的两只鹤成了朋友。



1. crane [krein] n. 鹤



They used to play together, and tell each other stories. The cranes would fly to far away lands and when they returned to the pond, they would tell the turtle stories about all that they saw. The turtle, of course, could not go with them because he could not fly. But he loved to hear the cranes' stories.

Then one year it did not rain at all. Slowly, the pond started to dry up. The turtle and the cranes were worried. One day the turtle said to the cranes, "There is very little water left in the pond. We must find some water soon. You can fly to far-away lands, why don't you search for a bigger pond with more water? And then we can go there."

The cranes thought that was a very good idea. So they flew off in search of a pond. Soon, they found a big lake beside the blue mountain. They flew back and told the turtle about it. They were all very happy, but there was one problem. The blue mountain was very far away, and there was no way the turtle could walk to it.

So they all sat down to think. "I wish you could fly like us," said one crane. They all sat thinking. Then the turtle shouted, "I have a great idea. I will fly with you." The cranes said, "O-no, come on, you can't fly. There is no time to joke; we are trying to think." The turtle replied, "I am not joking, my friends, I am serious. This is what we'll do. Both of you tightly hold onto the ends of a stick between your strong *claws*<sup>2</sup>. I will hold onto the stick with my mouth. So when you fly off, I will fly off with you."

The cranes thought that was a very clever idea indeed. But they warned the turtle, "You must remember not to speak at all as you fly."

So off they went flying together. As they were flying over a village, a little girl saw them. She had never seen anything like this before. She shouted out to her friends: "Come, look at a flying turtle." At first everyone thought she was joking, but soon the whole village was out on the street and shouting "Flying Turtle" "F-L-Y-I-N-G T-U-R-T-L-E."

