

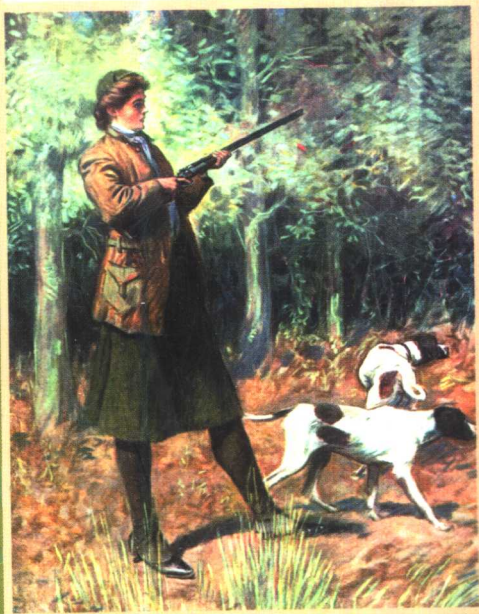
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英语乐园精品系列

趣闻篇

张荏敏 编译



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前 言

英语是现代社会生活中一种极为重要的交流工具，其重要性已越来越为人们所认识，学习、欣赏英语的人也越来越多。

为了帮助广大英语爱好者学习英语，扩大视野，增长知识，满足他们不同层次、不同视角的需要，让他们在业余时间读点轻松有趣的东西，本书以英汉对照的形式，汇集了英文中许许多多有趣的轶闻、故事、传说及科普知识等。

全书共分四部分：第一部分为名人轶事；第二部分为发明史话；第三部分为古今趣闻；第四部分为动物趣谈。本书旨在为读者提供既可浏览、欣赏，又能学习和借鉴的原汁原味的英语原文，使他们寓学于乐，事半功倍。

由于译者水平有限，如有不当之处，敬请同行专家和广大读者批评指正。

张廷敏

2000年初夏

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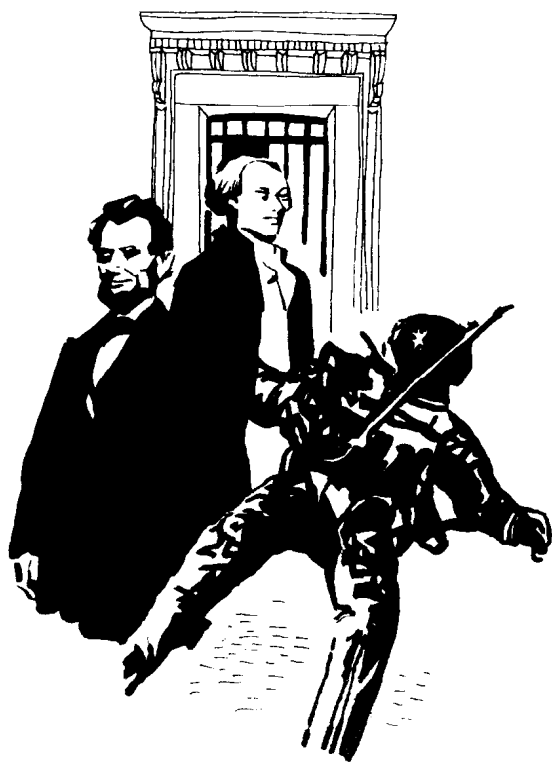
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Anecdotes about Famous People

名人轶事



1. *George Washington and the Horse*

Once a neighbor stole one of Washington's horses. Washington went with a police officer to the neighbor's farm to get the horse, but the neighbor refused to give the horse up; he claimed that it was his horse.

Washington placed both of his hands over the eyes of the horse and said to the neighbor, "If this is your horse, then you must tell us in which eye he is blind."

"In the right eye." The neighbor said.

Washington took his hand from the right eye of the horse and showed the police officer that the horse was not blind in the right eye.

"Oh, I have made a mistake," said the neighbor. "He is blind in the left eye."

Washington then showed that the horse was not blind in the left eye either.

"I have made another mistake," said the neighbor.

"Yes," said the police officer, "and you have also proven that the horse does not belong to you. You must return it to Mr Washington."

乔治·华盛顿与马

一次，一个邻居偷了华盛顿的一匹马。华盛顿请来一位警官去邻居的农场索要那匹马，但邻居不愿还给他并声称那匹马是他的。

于是华盛顿就将两只手盖住马的眼睛，然后对邻居说：“如果这是你的马，那你必须告诉我们马的眼睛哪一只瞎的。”

“右眼。”邻居道。

华盛顿将手从马的右眼上挪开让警官看，马的右眼并没有瞎。

“哦，我搞错了。”邻居说道，“是左眼瞎了。”

华盛顿又挪开另一只手，马的左眼也没有瞎。

邻居又说：“我又弄错了。”

“是的，”警官说道，“你已证明这匹马不是你的，你必须将它还给华盛顿先生。”



2. *An Absent-minded Scientist*

One day, Mr Ampere went on his way to give a lecture. He was thinking about an experiment as he was walking by the river.

He picked up a stone and put it into his pocket. Suddenly, he thought out a way to carry out his experiment. He was so happy that he threw what he thought was a “stone” in his pocket into the river. Later when he wanted to look at the time, what he took out from his pocket was not a watch but the stone. His watch had been thrown into the river by himself.

心不在焉的科学家

*Anecdotes about
Famous People*

名人轶事

一天,安培先生去作演讲。他沿河边走着的时候,正思考着一个实验。

他拾起一块石头,将它放进衣袋里。突然,他想出一种做实验的方法。他很兴奋,就将口袋中以为是“石头”的东西扔进河里。后来当他想看时间的时候,从口袋中拿出来的不是表,而是石头。表已被他扔进河里了。



3. *An Anecdote about Tolstoy*

Tolstoy, the great Russian writer, liked to walk about in a railway station near his home town. One day when he was walking up and down as usual, looking at people getting on and off the train, he heard a lady shouting after him: "Hey, you old fellow, go and fetch my handbag in the waiting room. I left it there."

Tolstoy hurried there. He picked the bag up and walked quickly along the platform. Meanwhile, the lady was waiting beside the carriage, looking worried. When at last the old man gave the bag back to her, she opened it to make sure nothing was missing. "Good, old man," said the woman, "you're just as quick as I can expect. Here you are." She gave him a copper coin. He accepted it and put it into his pocket with a smile.

But the woman felt terrible when she heard that he was Tolstoy, the author of the great novel *War and Peace*. She turned to Tolstoy and stammered: "Oh, excuse me. . . Oh, how silly I was to take you for a porter."

托尔斯泰轶事

伟大的俄国作家托尔斯泰喜欢在他家乡小镇上的火车站散步。一天当他像往常一样来回地走着，看着人们上下火车时，他听到一位女士在他身后叫他：“喂，老头，去候车室把我的手袋拿来，我把它忘在那儿了。”

托尔斯泰赶到那儿，拿起手袋很快沿站台走回来。这时，那位女士正等在车厢外，显得有些着急。当老人将手袋交到她手上时，她打开看看，什么都没丢。“好的，老头，”女士说道，“你的动作很快，像我希望的那样。这是给你的钱。”她给老人一枚铜币。托尔斯泰微笑着收下，放进口袋里。

但当这位女士听说他是巨著《战争与和平》的作者托尔斯泰时，感到自己做了一件蠢事，转身对托尔斯泰结结巴巴地说道：“哦，对不起……我真傻，竟把你当成搬运工了。”



4. The Shy Scientist

Henry Cavendish, one of the great scientists of the 1700s, was painfully shy and could barely speak to one person—never to two. He was so afraid in the presence of women that he communicated with his servants by notes only. If one crossed his path in his house, she was fired on the spot. He built a separate entrance to his house so he could come and go without meeting anyone. In the end he insisted on dying alone.

腼腆的科学家

**Anecdotes about
Famous People**

名人轶事

亨利·卡文迪什是18世纪的一位伟大的科学家，他十分怕羞，难得同别人说话——从未面对两个人说过话。他不愿在女人面前露面，所以同女佣人间的交流也只是通过字条。如果哪个女佣在家里碰上他，就会被当场解雇。他给自己的屋子另外开了个门，这样，进出时就不会碰到任何人了。最后他仍然坚持独身，直至去世。

