

英汉对照

# 幽默故事精选

第二集

SELECTIONS  
FROM  
ENGLISH HUMOROUS STORIES



金盾出版社

# 英汉对照幽默故事精选

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### SELECTIONS FROM ENGLISH HUMOROUS STORIES

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## 内 容 提 要

本书从英美当今流行的大量幽默故事中,精选出 66 则诙谐有趣、耐人寻味的故事,配以译文、注释、插图和练习题及答案,供大、中学生和英语自学者课外阅读。

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# 前 言

幽默是智慧的结晶,是语言的精萃。它以日常生活为题材,以诙谐、夸张、双关、反语等手法,巧妙地揭示一些人和事的本质或某种特殊的属性,使人们在笑声中得到思想的启迪、感情的交流。因此,它跨越国家、民族和时代界限,长期以来,深受中外人民的喜爱。

英美人民对幽默更是情有独钟。在英美国家,从文学名著到多种艺术表演,从名人演讲到普通百姓的日常谈话,无不富有幽默。他们常常把是否具有幽默感视为一个人文化素养高低的重要标志。学习和欣赏英语幽默故事可以起到一箭三雕的作用:一是受到思想启发;二是增进对英美文化和社会的了解;三是在无穷的乐趣中学习英语。

有鉴于此,我在纽约联合国总部工作期间和近年来随我国代表团出访欧美时,收集了许多英语幽默故事。现选编出来,配以注释、译文、练习题和插图,奉献给广大英语爱好者和大、中学生。在练习题及答案中对读者深入理解原文提供了必要的指引。

韩卫兵

2000年3月

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## 1. THIS IS VERY GOOD VALUE FOR YOUR MONEY

As Bill was about to<sup>1</sup> start a job in a shop, the owner thought it necessary to explain to him what he was to do, and how he was to set about<sup>2</sup> the work.

“Now,” he said, “suppose a customer comes in and asks for something we haven’t got, don’t go saying you haven’t got it!”

“So what must I say?” asked Bill.

“Er ... well, say you’ve got something else of a very high quality, you know the sort of<sup>3</sup> thing.”

Saying this the owner of the shop went upstairs to the office.



Soon, however, he had to rush back<sup>4</sup> as he heard a dreadful noise coming from the shop and some words which he could

vaguely remember from his army days. And indeed, as he got down, he saw a high-ranking officer bawling at<sup>5</sup> the shop assistant (at Bill, of course) and cursing badly.

“What’s happened?!” asked the owner.

“A fine sort of shop assistant you’ve got here! I asked him for some toilet paper and he answered he hadn’t got paper, but suggested I should take some sand paper instead, very good value for my money. Can you beat that<sup>6</sup>?!”

## 您会买得物有所值

比尔开始在一家商店工作,店主觉得有必要向他解释一下他应该做什么并告诉他如何着手工作。

“现在,”他说,“假设有位顾客来买某样东西,而我们没有,千万不要说我们没货。”

“那我该说什么呢?”比尔问。

“嗯,就说你有另外一种质量上等的货。那种货你是知道的。”

说完店主到楼上自己的办公室去了。

但很快他不得不又跑回来,因为他听到商店传来一种可怕的声音夹杂一些他依稀记得在军队服役时常用的词句。果然,他一下楼便看到一位军衔很高的军官在冲着店员比尔大吼大叫,不停地骂着。

“发生什么事了?”店主问道。

“你的店员可真是好样儿的!我想买一些卫生纸,他说没有,却建议我买砂纸代替,说这样我会买得物有所值。你听说过如此荒唐的事吗?”

注释:

1. be about to . . . 即将

2. set about 开始;着手

• 2 •

3. sort of 种类;类别

4. rush back 跑回来

5. bawl at 大喊,大叫

6. beat v. 打;打败;使无法回答 Can you beat that? 你看到(听说)过如此荒唐的事吗?

**A. Answer these questions:**

1. What did the owner of the shop tell Bill to do?

2. Did Bill do as he was told? What happened then?

3. Why did the owner of the shop have to rush back a moment later?

4. Why did Bill suggest that it was very good value for his customer's money to buy some sand paper instead of toilet paper?

**B. What words in the story mean the opposite of:**

1. unnecessary    2. downstairs    3. pleasant    4. clearly

5. forget

## 2. GEORGE WASHINGTON

This happened in America. Mr. Adams came home after a hard day's work and found Mrs. Adams in tears<sup>1</sup>.

"What's the matter, darling?" he asked.

"Frank's broken the window in the sitting-room and his marks at school haven't improved at all<sup>2</sup>. I've spoken to his teacher and he thinks something must be done about it. He's been doing very badly indeed."

"Frank, you bad boy!" shouted Mr. Adams, looking angrily at his son. "When George Washington was your age he was top of<sup>3</sup> his class!"

Frank looked up<sup>4</sup> and answered:

"And when George Washington was your age, dad, he was President of the United States of America!"



## 乔治·华盛顿

这件事发生在美国。亚当斯先生劳累一天后回到家,发现妻子在哭。

“亲爱的,怎么了?”他问。

“弗兰克打碎了起居室的窗子,而且他在学校的成绩一点儿都没有进步。我和他的老师谈过了,他认为必须对此采取措施。这孩子表现确实太差了。”

“弗兰克,你这个坏小子!”亚当斯先生生气地冲着儿子喊道,“乔治·华盛顿在你这么大的时候,他可是班里最好的!”

弗兰克抬头看看父亲,说道:

“乔治·华盛顿在你这么大的时候,爸爸,他已经是美国的总统了!”

### 注释:

1. in tears 含着泪;流着泪;哭着
2. not ... at all 根本不;一点儿都没有
3. be top of 最好的;最优秀的
4. look up 仰视

### A. Answer these questions:

1. What did Mr. Adams find when he came home one day?
2. Why was Mrs. Adams in tears?
3. What did the teacher think about all this?
4. Why did Frank's father mention Washington?
5. Was Frank's answer out of his father's expectation?

### B. Which words or phrases in the story mean the opposite of:

1. worsen
2. whisper
3. happily
4. bottom
5. look down

### 3. A PAIR OF FOOLS

Colonel<sup>1</sup> Stone had always thought he was extremely clever. "If I weren't such a brainy guy," he mused<sup>2</sup>, "should I be a colonel?", or "If I weren't intelligent, would my subordinates<sup>3</sup> obey my orders?" To cut a long story short, he had been quite satisfied with<sup>4</sup> himself until recently. Now everything was changed. Young Lieutenant<sup>5</sup> Faith was to blame<sup>6</sup>. He was the fly in the ointment<sup>7</sup>. . . He would come up to him with an innocent look in his eyes and ask, "Do you know what the speed of light is, sir?" and then: "I beg to differ<sup>8</sup>, sir, shall we bet on<sup>9</sup> it?" Other bets followed and Colonel Stone found himself in a rather awkward situation<sup>10</sup>. Not only did he begin to think of himself as an ignorant old fool, but his financial situation went from bad to worse<sup>11</sup>. "If this sort of thing goes on," he thought, "I'll have an inferiority complex<sup>12</sup>."

He got in touch with Colonel Help, a friend of his, and told him everything.

"Send him to me! I will teach the impudent fellow a lesson<sup>13</sup>!" said Colonel Help.

The next day, as the young man appeared in his study, the colonel smiled and said:

"Lieutenant Faith, I believe, what are you staring at<sup>14</sup> me for?!"

"Er...well, sir, I've just noticed you're colour-blind<sup>15</sup> and I'm thinking that..."

“What?! I colour-blind?! Don’t be an ass!!!”

“Yes, this morning you put on a pair of pink pants<sup>16</sup> without realizing it<sup>17</sup>.”

“I can bet you 200 dollars my pants are white,” said the colonel with a malicious<sup>18</sup> smile.

“I accept the bet,” said the lieutenant, “though I hate depriving you of<sup>19</sup> your money.”

“Depriving me of my money?! Let’s check on<sup>20</sup> that!!” said the high-ranking officer and pressed his finger on a button. The group of officers that entered the room a few seconds later saw an unusual sight: their commanding officer was standing in the middle of the room, waving his trousers, and roaring: “What colour are my pants?!”

“White!” answered all the officers who could hardly believe their eyes and ears.

“Snow white,” echoed Lieutenant Faith.



“You’ve lost 200 dollars, young man, it serves you

right<sup>21</sup>!”

He snatched the receiver, dialed the right number and told Colonel Stone what had happened.

“You are a class of your own<sup>22</sup>! I’ve never met such a fool as you are!” roared a voice at the other end, “hasn’t it occurred to you he had a jolly<sup>23</sup> good reason for losing 200 dollars? You see, he bet me 1,000 dollars he would make you take off your trousers the moment he saw you. What an ass you are! I should have known!!”

## 一对笨蛋

斯通上校总认为自己智力过人。他想：“如果我不是聪明透顶，我怎能当上上校？”或者，“如果我不是聪颖过人，我的部下又如何肯听我的调遣？”总之，他对自己总是心满意足。不过，近来，一切都发生了变化。这都得怪年轻的菲斯中尉，是他把一切都搅乱了。……他常常带着天真的目光来到上校面前，问道：“长官，您知道光的速度是多少吗？”接着又说：“我斗胆说一下，长官，我不同意您的说法。咱们打个赌好吗？”类似这样的赌一个接着一个。斯通上校觉得自己处于一种非常尴尬的境地。他不仅开始怀疑自己是个老糊涂，而且他的经济状况也是每况愈下。“要是这种状况继续下去，”他想，“我早晚要有自卑感。”

他跟他的朋友赫尔帕上校联系上了，把一切都告诉了他。

“把他叫到我这儿来。我要教训教训这个不知天高地厚的小子！”赫尔帕上校说道。

第二天，年轻人来到了他的书房。上校笑着说：

“是菲斯中尉吧。你盯着我看什么?!”

“呃，……这个，长官，我刚刚发现您是色盲。而且我想……”

“什么?! 我色盲?!! 别冒傻气了!!!”