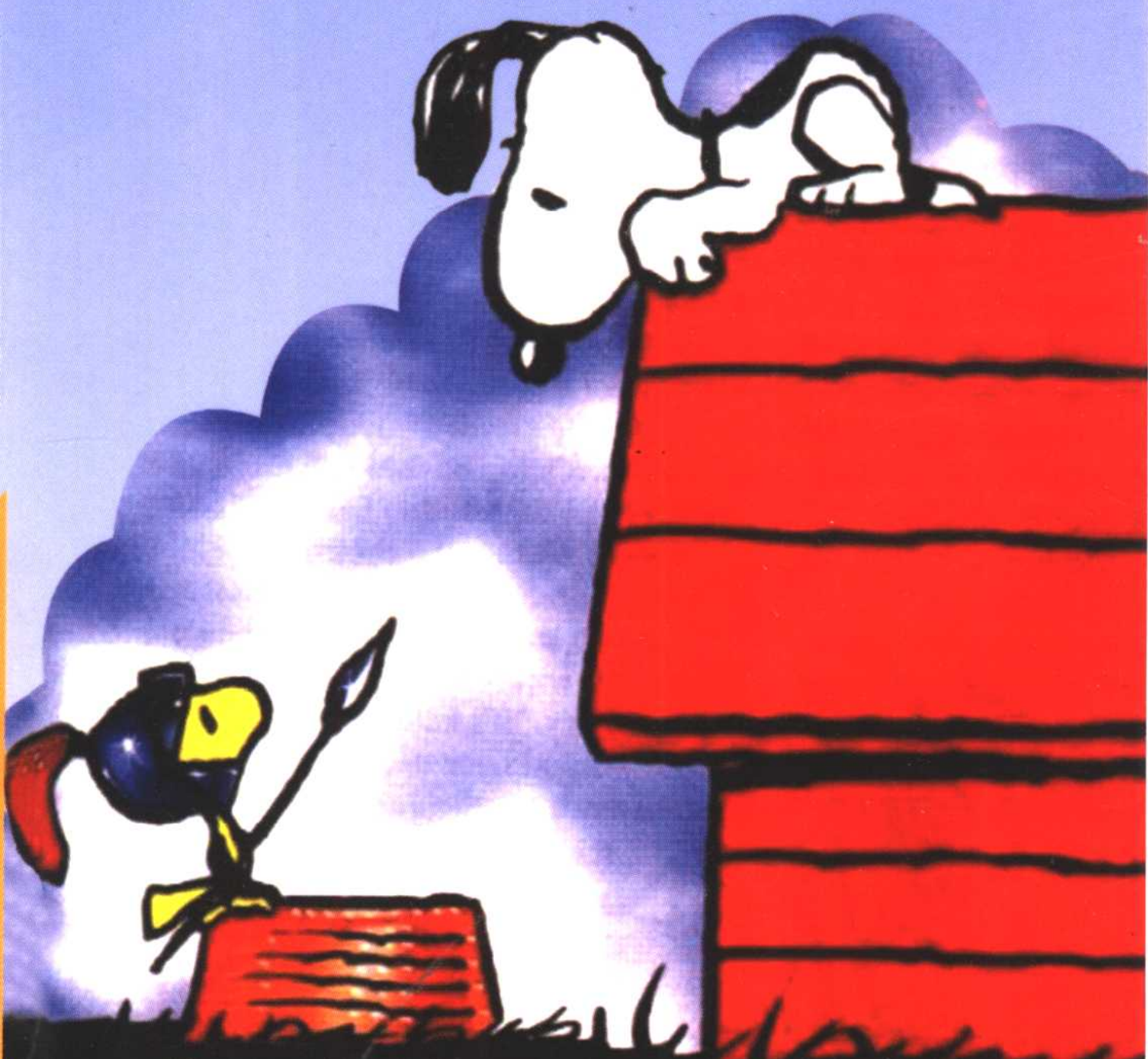


英语课外阅读

幽默

笑话精选 500 篇 (英汉对照)

胡秀梅 主编



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编者的话

英语学习中,无论是从语言测试的角度,还是从实际应用的角度,阅读理解都占有非常大的比重。许多人认为,提高阅读理解能力是一件既吃力,又往往成效不佳的苦差事,因而总是望而却步。本书的问世恰好可以解决这一难题,帮助你轻松愉快地提高阅读理解能力。

兴趣是最好的老师。本书精选的英文幽默故事在国外流传很广,颇受广大读者喜爱。这些故事具有题材广泛、主题现代、易于理解和趣味盎然等特点,适合各类英语学习者学习掌握。为了便于读者阅读,我们根据故事篇章的词汇量和语言难度,将全书分成“超短篇—短篇—中篇—中长篇”四大部分。同时,还对故事中出现的难点词汇和俗语等进行了注释,以便读者能从语言学习的角度获得更深入的理解。

本书采用双色印刷,重点突出,同时采用时下流行的64开本,便于携带,达到随时随地、即学即用的效果。总之,阅读理解能力的提高决非一蹴可及的,但是若能采用“兴趣+阅读”的方法,依然可以缩短提高阅读理解能力所需的时间。因此,本书的读者,只要按部就班,循序渐进,必定可以在最短的时间内,获得最大的成效。

衷心希望本书既能成为广大读者学习英语、提高阅读能力的得力助手,又能丰富大家的阅历,增强处世幽默感。

2001年12月

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More Reliable

更可靠

1

We were discussing various kinds*of clocks in my kindergarten class. "Now you have an alarm clock at home, don't you?" I asked one of the pupils.

"Oh, no," he replied, "we don't need one. We have a grandmother."

在我教的幼儿园班上,大家正在讨论各种各样的钟。“那么你家也有闹钟,对吗?”我问一个学生。

“哦,没有,”他答道,“我们不需要,我们有奶奶。”

Notes:

kindergarten

n.

[ˈkɪndəˌɡɑːtən]

幼儿园

Coffee Breaks Missed

错过的工休

2

Then there was the fellow who wanted to know if he could have a day off with pay. When asked why, he said, "I want to catch up on the time I missed for coffee breaks

Notes:

vocation n.

[vəʊˈkeɪʃən]

职业

when I was on vocation.”

有个小伙子打听能不能带薪休息一天,别人问他为什么,他答道:“我休假期间错过的工间休息得补回来。”

Strap

3

吊带

Notes:

strap *n.*

[stræp]

吊带

necktie *n.*

['nektai]

领带

On a crowded bus:

“Madam, would you like me to get you a strap to hang on to?”

“No, thank you, I have one.”

“Then would you mind letting go of my necktie?”

在一辆拥挤的公共汽车上:

“夫人,要我给你找个拉手的吊带吗?”

“不,谢谢,我有了。”

“那么能否请你放开我的领带?”

Not On His TV

他家电视上没有

4

The geography teacher asked Bobby a question about the English Channel.

“I don't know about that one,” he answered, “There's no such channel on our television set.”

地理老师问鲍比一个关于英吉利海峡的问题。

“我不知道”，他答道，“我家电视没有英吉利这个频道。”

Notes:

the English
Channel

英吉利海峡

Hard Times

艰难时代



A: What time is it by your watch?

B: Quarter to.

A: Quarter to what?

B: I can't tell. Times got so bad that I had to lay off one of the hands.

A: 几点了?

Notes:

lay off

解雇; 停止

B: 差一刻。

A: 几点差一刻?

B: 说不准。时日难熬, 我只好卸掉了时针。

6

Why Buy?

何用之有?

Notes:

insurance *n.*

[in'ʃʊərəns]

保险

Woman at insurance counter at airport,

“I used to buy flight insurance, but it doesn't seem to make any difference.”

一名妇女在机场保险手续服务台:

“我过去一直办理飞行保险, 可这似乎没起任何作用。”

7

Inflation

通货膨胀

Notes:

inflation *n.*

[in'fleɪʃən]

通货膨胀

comment *v.*

“With the high price of food, my shopping habits have changed,” commented the house-wife, “shopping cart with money and put the food in my purse.”

“食品涨价后, 我的购物习惯也变

了,”家庭主妇评说道,“现在我用购物车装钱,用钱包装食品。”

['kɒment]

评论

Could Be Different

可能会不同

8

Employer to applicant for position who had handed in testimonials from two ministers, “We don’t work on Sundays. Haven’t you a reference from someone who sees you on weekdays?”

雇主对交上两名牧师推荐信的求职者说:“我们周末不工作,你有没有工作日见你的人写的推荐信?”

Notes:

testimonial *n.*

[,testɪˈmɒnjəl]

推荐书

Where Is The Winner?

胜者在哪儿?

9

Customer: This lobster’s only got one claw.

Waiter: I guess she’s been in a fight, sir.

Customer: Well, bring me the winner.

Notes:

lobster *n.*

['lɒbstə]

龙虾

顾客:这只龙虾只有一个爪子。

侍者:我猜想是在打仗时弄丢的,先生。

顾客:那样的话,请把胜者请来。

Last Raise

10

上一次晋升

Notes:

slice *v.*

[slais]

分为若干份

gaily *adv.*

['geili]

愉快地

anniversary *n.*

[,æni'vɜ:səri]

周年纪念日

An office worker, slicing a gaily decorated cake at his desk, said to his boss, "Hope you don't mind, sir. Just a little celebration on the tenth anniversary of my last raise."

一名职员在自己的办公桌上切开一块精美的蛋糕,并对上司说:“先生,希望你介意。我想小庆一下自己上次晋升10周年。”

Be A Good Boy

11

做个乖孩子

"Now, Jonny, be a good boy and say

‘Ah-h-h’ so the doctor can get his finger out of your mouth.”

“哎，约翰，乖，说‘啊，啊——’让大夫把手指头从你嘴里拔出来。”

Couldn't Slow Down

没法减速

12

Driver to officer arresting for speeding,
“But, officer, I couldn't slow down while you were going so fast right behind me!”

司机对因超速而逮住他的警官说：
“可是，长官，你在后面开得那么快，我没法减速！”

Notes:

arrest *v.*

[ə'rest]

逮捕

Perhaps Not

或许没有

13

Customer: Waiter, I can't find any oysters in this oyster stew.

Waiter: Well, you wouldn't expect to find any angels in an angel food cake, would you?

Notes:

oyster *n.*

['ɔɪstə]

牡蛎

顾客:服务员,我这个牡蛎炖菜里怎么没有牡蛎?

服务员:是啊,你不会指望在天使蛋糕里发现天使吧?

Where They Came In

14

周而复始

Notes:

baseball *n.*

['beɪsbɔ:l]

棒球

batter *n.*

['bætə]

打击手

Two elderly ladies arrived at a baseball game just as the batter hit a home run.

Twenty minutes later the same batter came up to bat and hit another home run. One of the old ladies turned to the other, "Let's go. This is where we came in."

两个老太太来到棒球赛场,正赶上一名击球手打出个本垒跑。20 分钟后还是这名队员上场,又打出个本垒跑。一个老太太对另一个说:“走吧。这和咱们进来时的情景一样。”

Punished

惩罚

15

Alice: Isn't Coby a naughty dog, Mommy? He ate my dolly's slipper.

Mother: Yes, dear. He must be punished.

Alice: I did punish him. I went out to his kennel and drank his milk.

艾丽斯: 妈妈, 老比这狗是不是淘气? 它把我洋娃娃的拖鞋吃掉了。

妈妈: 是的, 亲爱的。应该惩罚它。

艾丽斯: 我惩罚它了。我到外面它的窝里把它的牛奶喝了。

Notes:

dolly *n.*

['dɒli]

洋娃娃

kennel *n.*

['kenl]

巢穴

Smart Bride

机灵新娘

16

Bridegroom: And now, dear, that we are married, let's have an understanding about our affairs. Do you wish to be president or vice-president?

Notes:

treasurer *n.*

['treʒərə]

司库, 财务
员

bride

[braid]

新娘

Bride: Neither. You'll be both. I'll just be the treasurer.

新郎:亲爱的,既然我们已经成家,让我们澄清一些问题。你想当总统还是副总统?

新娘:都不想当。都让你来当。我只当财政部长。

Modern Art

17

现代艺术

Notes:

sculptor *n.*

['skʌlptə]

雕刻家

A modern sculptor is a man who can take a rough block of stone or wood, work on it for months, and make it look like a rough block of stone or wood.

一个现代派雕塑家是这样一个人,他能拿来一块粗糙的石头或木头,忙上几个月,然后使它们变得看上去像一块粗糙的石头或木头。

Children And Gum

孩子与口香糖

18

You can't win with kids. I ordered mine not to chew gum so they wouldn't get toothaches. They swallow it whole instead and got stomachaches.

你拿孩子们真没办法。我叫孩子不要嚼口香糖,免得他们牙疼。于是他们就把口香糖整个儿吞掉,结果全都胃疼了。

Notes:

gum *n.*

[gʌm]

口香糖

Just The Old Geese

去年的野鹅

19

Game warden: Say, you're hunting with last year's license?

Humer: Yeah. But I'm only shooting at the ones I missed last season.

猎场管理员: 喂, 你在用去年的猎证打猎!

猎手: 是啊。可我打的都是我去年没打着的野鹅。

Notes:

goose *n.*

[gu:s]

鹅

(pl. geese)