

Happy English
快乐学英语系列

英语笑话谜语集

晓林 编

(初级)

English
Jokes And Riddles



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编者的话

本书辑录了语言较为浅显易懂的英语笑话谜语 1000 则, 我们的意图是给英语初、中级学习者提供一本课外趣味读物。一般说来, 读者只要掌握了 1000~2000 个英语单词、学过一点基本英语语法, 是不难体会和欣赏出本书中大部分笑话谜语的趣味来的。

我们在本书编选中没有采取中英对照的方法, 原因有三: 首先是大部分入选材料都较为浅显, 读者只需偶尔借助字典的帮助即能看懂; 其二, 一种语言的笑话谜语往往都有“只可意会, 不可译传”的“神韵”, 一经翻译, 则反而“走神”, 干扰读者对原文的理解; 其三, 我们希望把本书编得短小精悍些, 以减轻读者的经济负担。

英国民族是一个喜欢和追求幽默的民族。他们不仅常常对生活中的各种现象开玩笑, 而且也喜欢就英语语言本身开玩笑, 而这样的笑话谜语对我们英语学习者来说也有种种助益。读者不难发现, 这类笑话谜语常常通过词语的歧义(如同义词、多义词等)和句法上的歧义而展开。例如:

Which animal grows up as it grows down?

The duck.

这则谜语中出现了 grow up(长大、成长)和 grow down(长小、变小)两个意义相对的词组, 由此构成一难解的谜。但是只要我们了解 grow 也可作及物动词用, 而 down 不仅可作介词、副词用, 也可作名词(鸭绒、绒羽)解, 答案就不难找到了。又如:

Mrs. Rich: Call me a taxi.

Boy: O. K. You're a taxi.

在这则笑话中,关键在对“Call me a taxi.”的理解上。一般来说,“Call me a taxi.”应被解释为“Call a taxi for me.”。但是这个句型也可以被理解为与“We call her Little Lily.”具同样的结构与意义,因此小孩的回答“You're a taxi.”不能被认为是错误的,由此而形成一则笑话。

当然,词语歧义、句法歧义仅仅是具有代表性的两个特点而已,还有其他许多构成英语笑话谜语的特点,尤其是多种多样的多方面的联想(association),读者自己可以作些归纳、总结。可以这么说,在阅读这类笑话谜语时,我们在不知不觉中不仅提高了语言水平,也在提高着自己的思维能力,扩大着自己对另一种文化的了解。

如果读者有兴趣,我们打算再编选一本层次、难度较高一些的笑话谜语集。

希望广大青年英语爱好者和英语自学者,大中学生和成年英语学习者能喜欢这本小书。如果你们在阅读这些笑话谜语中,能有些许体会或是发出会心的微笑,那便是我们的莫大安慰了。你们读后有什么意见和要求,也请告诉我们,以便我们进一步改进提高。

编者

于上海交通大学

1997年10月

1. What can hear you without ears and can answer you without a mouth?

An echo.

注:echo['ekəu];回声。

2. Do you know how long cows should be milked?

Same way as short cows.

注:两种读法:① …how(怎样) long cows should be milked? ② …how long(多久) cows should be milked?

3. —Call your dog off!

—I can't. I've always called him 'Rover' and it's too late to change now.

注:两种理解:① call … off:叫走,把……叫开;② call your dog "Off":把你的狗叫作"Off".

4. Englishman in New York: Your sky looks much clearer than in London.

Cab driver: Sure! We have more skyscrapers here.

注:skyscraper:① 摩天大楼;② =sky+scraper(刮刀、削刮器)。

5. Teacher: If I laid two eggs on this side of the table and two eggs on that side of the table, how many would I have?

Little Bobby: I don't know, teacher, but I bet you couldn't do it.

注: lay (laid): ① 放、搁; ② 下蛋。

6. What do you call a small wound?

A shortcut.

注: shortcut: ① 捷径, 近路; ② = short cut, 小伤口。

7. Tom: How can I find my dog who is lost in the woods?

Jerry: Put your ear to a tree and listen to the bark.

注: bark: ① 树皮; ② 狗吠, 叫。

8. Teacher: If you multiply X times Y and A times B, what will you get?

Student: I know what I'll get — the wrong answer!

注: multiply: 使相乘。

9. First pupil: Do you like to go to school?

Second pupil: I don't mind it at all, and I like going home, too. It's the stuff in between that gets me!

注: in between: 在中间, 此处谐指“go to school”与“go home”之间, 即“study at school”. go to school: ① 上

学;② 到校上课。

10. Three very deaf ladies were traveling on top of an open bus.

‘Windy, isn’t it?’ asked one.

‘No, it isn’t Wednesday, it’s Thursday,’ said the second.

‘Yes, I’m thirsty, too. Let’s get off and have a Coca-Cola.’

注:此人将“windy”听成“Wednesday”,“Thursday”听成“thirsty”。

11. Grandfather: Are you a good student?

Little Willie: Yes and no.

Grandfather: What do you mean?

Little Willie: Yes, I am no good.

注:Yes and no = Yes, I am no good. = Yes, I am a student + No, I am no good(没用的,无希望的)。

12. Said the toe to the sock: ‘Let me through, let me through.’

Said the sock to the toe: ‘I’ll be darned if I do.’

注:toe:脚趾.sock:短袜.darn:缝补。

13. What did one candle say to the other?

I'm going out tonight.

注:go out:① 出走;② 熄灭。

14. Junior: I think you're mean not to help me with my homework!

Dad: You don't want help — you just want somebody to do it for you.

Junior: Well — isn't that education?

注:mean:吝啬,小气的。

15. What room has no walls, no doors, no windows, and no floors?

A mushroom.

注:mushroom:蘑菇。

16. What is smaller than an insect's mouth?

Anything it eats.

17. What large instrument do you carry in your ears?

Drums.

注:drum:① 鼓;② =eardrum,鼓膜。

18. Lonnie: Worry, worry, worry.

Connie: What's worry?

Lonnie: The doctor gave me some medicine

and told me to take three teaspoonfuls after every meal.

Connie: So?

Lonnie: We only have two teaspoons!

注:take three teaspoonfuls;喝三茶匙的药水。

19. What's too much for me, just right for two, but nothing at all for three?

A secret.

20. On what day of the year did soldiers start wars in history?

March fourth.

注:两种理解:① March fourth; 3月4日; ② march forth; 向前进, 冲锋。

21. How many feet are in a yard?

It depends on how many people are standing in it.

注:两种理解:① 一码有几英尺? ② 一个院子里有几只脚?

yard: ① 码(=3英尺); ② 院子(=courtyard)。

22. What person tried to make you smile most of the time?

A photographer.

23. When does a doctor get angry?

When he loses his patients.

注:patients(病人)与patience(耐心)谐音。

24. What animal has a head like a cat, eyes like a cat, a tail like a cat, but isn't a cat?

A kitten.

注:英语中猫(cat)与小猫(kitten)是两个词。

25. A man drove all the way from New York to San Francisco without knowing he had a flat tire. How is that possible?

It was his spare tire that went flat.

注:flat tire:瘪了的轮胎。spare tire:备用轮胎。

26. What trees do fortune tellers look at?

Palms.

注:fortune teller:算命先生。palm:① 手掌;② 棕榈树。

27. What surprising things happen every 24 hours?

Day breaks, but doesn't fall; night falls, but doesn't break.

注:break:① 破碎;② 破晓。fall:① 掉下;② 降临。

28. What happened when the nail had a fight with the tire?

The nail knocked it flat.

注: knock it flat: ① 打倒在地, “摆平”; ② 刺破轮胎。

29. What would you call a wooden king?

A ruler.

注: ruler: ① 尺; ② 统治者。

30. What kind of dog is interested in sports?

A boxer.

注: boxer: ① 拳击运动员; ② 斗拳狗。

31. What has hands but no feet, a face but no eyes, tells but does not talk?

A clock.

注: 英语“报时”可以说 tell the time, 但不能说 talk the time. hand: ① 手; ② 指针. face: ① 脸; ② 钟面。

32. How many months have 28 days?

All of them.

注: 两种理解: ① 哪几个月只有28天? ② 哪几个月有28天?

33. With which hand did the girl stir the tea?

Neither. She used a spoon.

34. What is the difference between the North Pole

and the South Pole?

The whole world.

注:North /South Pole:北/南极。

35. How can you get out of a locked room with a piano in it?

Play the piano until you find the right key and you can get out.

注:key:① 琴键;② 钥匙。

36. What kind of school did the king run?

A knight school.

注:knight(骑士)school 和 night school 同音。

37. Why does an elephant never forget?

He hasn't anything to remember.

38. Which horses have six legs?

All horses — forelegs in front and two in back.

注:forelegs (前腿)和 four legs 谐音。

39. Why did the farmer ride his horse?

He couldn't carry it.

40. From what number can you take half and leave

nothing?

The number 8. Take away the top half and 0 is left.

41. What is a dark horse?

A nightmare.

注: nightmare: 恶梦. night mare = dark horse. 此解释从其构词成分的字面意义而来。

42. What question can you never answer 'yes' to?
'Are you asleep?'

43. What do you know about the kings of France?
They're all dead.

注: know about: ① 认识; ② 了解。

44. When were the Middle Ages?

Between the ones that came before and the ones that came after.

注: Middle Ages: (欧洲历史上的)中世纪(约为公元500年至1500年)。

45. Why don't babies need glasses?
They like bottles better.

46. Why were the Middle Ages called the Dark

Ages?

There were more knights in those days.

注:knights 和 nights 音相同。

47. What do you drop when you need it and take back when you don't?

An anchor.

注:anchor['æŋkə]:锚。

48. What is the most important thing to remember in chemistry?

Don't lick the spoon!

注:lick:舔。

49. What is a piece of pie in Italian?

A pizza pie.

注:pizza['pitsə]:烘焙饼,音与 Pisa['pi:zə](比萨斜塔)近。

50. When is a house not on land nor on water?

When it's on fire.

注:on fire:着火。

51. Why did the kid cut a hole in the top of his umbrella?

So he could see when it stopped raining.

52. What did one magnet say to the other?

You're very attractive.

注:magnet['mæɡnɪt]:磁铁,磁石。

53. How do polar bears talk?

In icy tones.

注:polar['pəʊlə] bears:北极熊。icy:冰的;冷淡的。

54. What did the jack say to the car?

Can I give you a lift?

注:jack:千斤顶,起重器。give...a lift:① 让……搭车;

② 帮忙;③ 把……抬起。

55. What's the difference between a monkey and a flea?

A monkey can have fleas, but a flea can't have monkeys.

注:flea[fli:]:蚤。

56. What did the pen say to the paper?

I dot my eyes on you.

注:dot:打点。

57. Wife: Why are you wearing two coats to paint the house?

Husband: Because the instructions on the

paint can say 'Put on two coats for best results.'

注:coat:① 外衣;② (漆等的)涂层。put on:① 穿上;② 涂、刷(油漆等)。

58. What did the road say to the bridge?

You make me cross.

注:cross:① 动词,穿过,通过;② 形容词,发怒的,生气的。

59. What bird can you use to lift heavy weights?

A crane.

注:crane:① 鹤;② 起重机。

60. Which animal grows up as it grows down?

The duck.

注:down:① 副词,向下,往下方;② 名词,绒羽,羽毛。

61. What two words have thousands of letters in them?

Post office.

注:letters:① 字母;② 信件。

62. What is black when it is clean and white when it is dirty?

A blackboard.