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与全国公共英语等级考试大纲要求词汇同步

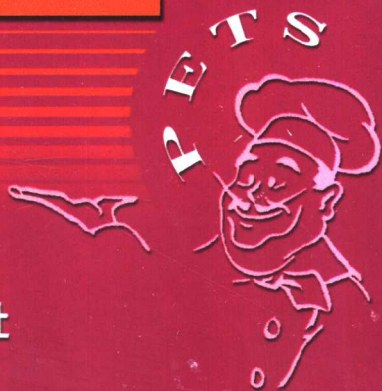
读幽默故事 学英语词汇

*READING HUMOR STORIES
AND
LEARNING ENGLISH WORDS*

编著：耿无为

4000英语词汇量水平读物
AN ENGLISH BOOK FOR
THE LEVEL OF 4000 WORDS

上海交通大学出版社





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(六)

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致读者

许多语言学家认为：熟练掌握3000左右的英语词汇，就能够完成表达思想和交际任务的95%。由此设想，对于只希望进行一般表达和交际的人来说，只为了其余5%的任务而花费难以估计的时间去研究和记忆数以万计的词汇是很不合算的。

上述理论不一定是正确的，但由此我们可以得出这样的结论：在英语学习的过程中，掌握常用词汇是至关重要的。先学哪些词，后学哪些词大有学问。

常用词汇是根据什么标准来挑选的呢？考虑兼顾到权威性和实用性，我们依据“全国公共英语等级考试”前3级的大纲词汇量要求编辑而成本系列丛书。

“全国公共英语等级考试”是目前最具权威的全国的非学历性外语考试体系，今后全国各行各业检验人才的外语水平都需经过这种考试。按照国家教育部考试说明，今后通过第1级考试的考生，其英语水平可基本满足诸如出租司机、宾馆行李员、门卫、交通警等工作。通过第2级考试的考生，其英语水平可基本满足进入高等院校继续学习的要求，同时也基本符合诸如宾馆前台服务员、一般银行职员、涉外企业一般员工等工作。通过第3级考试的考生可以胜任企事业单位的行政秘书、经理助理、一般管理人员或科技工作者、外企职员等工作。

背单词从来都是很枯燥的事。为了解决这一老问题，我们收集了大量的幽默小故事，目的是让读者在笑声中记忆单词。为了使各

册短文所含词汇量和等级考试各级词汇同步，我们专门聘请了上海交通大学语言文字工程研究所陈庆昌教授为我们编了短文词汇量分级检验软件，将这些幽默小故事按所含词汇量的多少用电脑进行了分级，各册的短文水平和词汇表已基本同步。各册前部分为幽默小故事，后部分为全国公共英语等级考试各级别大纲词汇表。读者可以先读小故事，检验一下目前的英语词汇量，也可以先背单词、再读小故事，检验一下背单词后的效果，或根据个人情况，交叉进行学习。

本系列丛书共六册：

第一册，词汇量标准约1000词，和等级考试第1级同步。

第二册，词汇量标准约2000词，和等级考试第2级同步。

第三册至第六册，词汇量每册递增500词，四册加起来词汇量标准约4000词，和等级考试第3级同步。

本套丛书适用于一般读者掌握常用英语词汇的需要，也适合为准备参加全国公共英语等级考试前3级考试的考生，同时也是广大中学生课外阅读的理想读物。

编者

2002年1月

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Here Too

Train number 814 used to go from New York to Philadelphia and back four times every day. Number 814 used to be full of people who were traveling for business. They usually enjoyed the ride. However, in June of 1979, the transportation authority began to receive many letters of complaint.

"We like to ride at the back of the train each time we take a trip," wrote many passengers. "And we can't hear the conductor when he announces the stops. The loudspeaker that used to announce the stops is out of order. As a result, we often miss our stops. Please help us."

After many hours of careful thought, the people at the transportation authority decided to put a conductor at the back of the train to announce the stops. They wanted all their passengers to be satisfied.

Soon there were two conductors to announce the stops on train number 814. The passengers sat back, relaxed, and waited to hear the conductors announce their stops. As the train pulled into the first stop, the conductor at the head of the train called out,

"Newark here, Newark, New Jersey!"

The conductor at the rear of the train called out,

"Here too, here too."



这里也一样

814 次列车过去是由纽约开往费城的，每天往返四次，814 次列车上通常都是挤满了做生意的人们。他们一直都对这条线路十分满意。然而，从 1979 年 6 月起，铁路当局开始收到大量的投诉信。

“每次我们乘坐这趟列车时，总是喜欢坐在靠后的位子上。但是当列车员报站时，我们却听不清楚。喇叭里播出的站名总是次序颠倒。因此，我们经常下错站。请帮助我们解决这个问题。”

经过数个小时的周密思考后，铁路当局的有关人员决定在列车的后部再安排一名列车员报站名。他们希望所有乘客都满意。

不久，814 次列车上就出现了两名列车员报站。乘客们轻松地坐在后面，等待着列车员宣布站名。当列车抵达第一站时，站在前面的列车员喊着：



“纽瓦克到了，这里是新泽西州的纽瓦克！”

这时站在车后面的列车员大声叫着：

“这里也一样，这里也一样。”

I Don't Know

"You in the back of the room, what was the date of the signing of the Magna Carta?"

"I dunno."

"You don't, eh? Well let's try something else. Who was Bonny Prince Charley?"

"I dunno."

"Well, then, can you tell me what the Tennis Court Oath was?"

"I dunno."

"You don't! I assigned this stuff last Friday. What were you doing last night?"

"I was out drinking beer with some friends."

"You were! What audacity to stand there and tell me a thing like that! How do you ever expect to pass this course?"

"Wal, I don't know, mister. You see, I just come in to fix the radiator."

我不知道

"你站在房间后面别动，签署大宪章是哪一天?"

"不知道。"

"你不知道，呃？好吧，我们换道别的题。谁是伯

混
幽
默
故
事
学
英
语
词
汇



恩·普林斯·查理？”

“我不知道。”

“这样的话，那么，你能告诉我网球场誓约是什么吗？”

“不知道。”

“还是不知道？我上星期五布置了这些作业。昨天晚上你干什么去了？”

“我和几个朋友出去喝酒了。”

“去喝了酒？你居然还好意思站在那里告诉我你去喝酒了？你觉得你这样会通过这门课吗？”

“哦，我不知道，先生。您瞧，我只是来这里修天线的。”



Why Did You Fight?

The father lectured his young son on the evils of fist-cuffs as a way of settling disputes.

“Don't you know that when you grow up you can't use your fists to settle an argument?” the father began. “You must begin to use peaceful and amicable means of arriving at a decision. Try to reason things out. Try to discover by logic and evidence which is right, and abide by the right. Remember that might does not make right; though the strong may win over the weak, that still does not prove that the weak is wrong.”



"I know, dad," said the boy kicking at the grass. "But this was different."

"Different? How different? What were you and Johnny arguing about that you had to fight over it?"

"Well, he said he could whip me and I said I could whip him, and there was only one way to find out which of us was right."

你为什么打架？

父亲教育自己的儿子说，靠打架来解决争执是一种恶习。

"你要知道在你长大之后，你便不可以再使用你的拳头来解决问题。"父亲说，"你必须学会和平友好地达成协议。试着去讲道理，试着通过逻辑和证据来找出什么是对的，并且坚持下去。记位力气大并不能代表正确。尽管强者经常会战胜弱者，但这不能说明弱者是错误的。"

"我懂了，爸爸，"男孩踢着草地上的草说。"但这与我的事不同。"

"不同？怎么不同？你和约翰尼究竟在争论些什么，非得靠打架解决？"

"是这样的，他说他能打得过我，而我说我能打得过他。因此想知道到底谁说的对，只有这一个办法。"





A Careless Cashier

When Mrs Green retired from her job in a big city, she went to live in an attractive village out in the country, and began to go into the nearest town every Saturday to buy food. She tried several stores and finally chose the most convenient one and began to shop there regularly every week.

After she had visited the store several times, the cashier began to recognize her and to smile and say, "Good morning, Mrs Brown." Whenever she came to pay for the things she had bought.

At first Mrs Green didn't mind this, but after a few weeks, she said to the cashier one Saturday, "Excuse me, but my last name's Green, not Brown." The cashier smiled cheerfully and said, "I'm sorry."

But the following week, she said to her, "Do you know, Mrs Brown, there's another lady who comes to our store every Saturday who looks just like you."

糊涂的收银员

格林太太退休后，从大城市里搬到了乡下一座美丽的小村庄。每星期六她都会附近的城镇上买食品。在去过了几家商店之后，她挑选了最便利的一家，开始每星期定时

间去那里购物。

她到这家商店去了几次之后，收银员记住了她，每次格林太太在柜台付账时，收银员都会笑着对她说：“早上好，布朗太太。”



起初，格林太太并不介意此事。但是几星期后的一个星期六，她对收银员说：“对不起，我姓格林，而不是布朗。”收银员笑着说：“我很抱歉。”

下个礼拜，收银员又对她说：“您知道吗，布朗太太，每星期六都有一个与您长得很像的太太到我们店里来。”

Praise

"I'll tell you what's the matter, Fred. You don't praise your wife enough. Even if things don't go right, there's no use growling. Praise her efforts to please, whether they are successful or not. Women like praise, and lots of it."

Fred, "All right. I'll remember it."

Fred (at dinner, same evening), "My dear, this pie is just lovely! It's delicious. Ever so much better than those my mother used to make. She couldn't equal this pie if



she tried a month."

Wife, "Huh! You've made fun of every pie I ever made, and now ——"

Fred, "But this is lovely."

Wife, "Yes, and it came from the bakery. You never praised my cooking like that."

称赞

"我来告诉你问题出在哪里，弗莱德。你对你妻子的称赞太少了。即便她做得不对，你发脾气也是没用的。记住无论她成功与否，你都要夸奖她。女人总是喜欢称赞的，不管有多少。"

弗莱德："好吧，我记住了。"

弗莱德（当天晚上，在餐桌上）："亲爱的，这块馅饼棒极了！味道很不错，简直比我妈妈做的还要好吃。我想就算她努力做上一个月的时间也赶不上你做的。好。"

妻子："哦？你曾经取笑我做的所有馅饼，现在却——"

弗莱德："但是它的确好吃。"

妻子："是的，可这是从糕点房买的，你从来都不会这么夸奖我的厨艺的。"

