



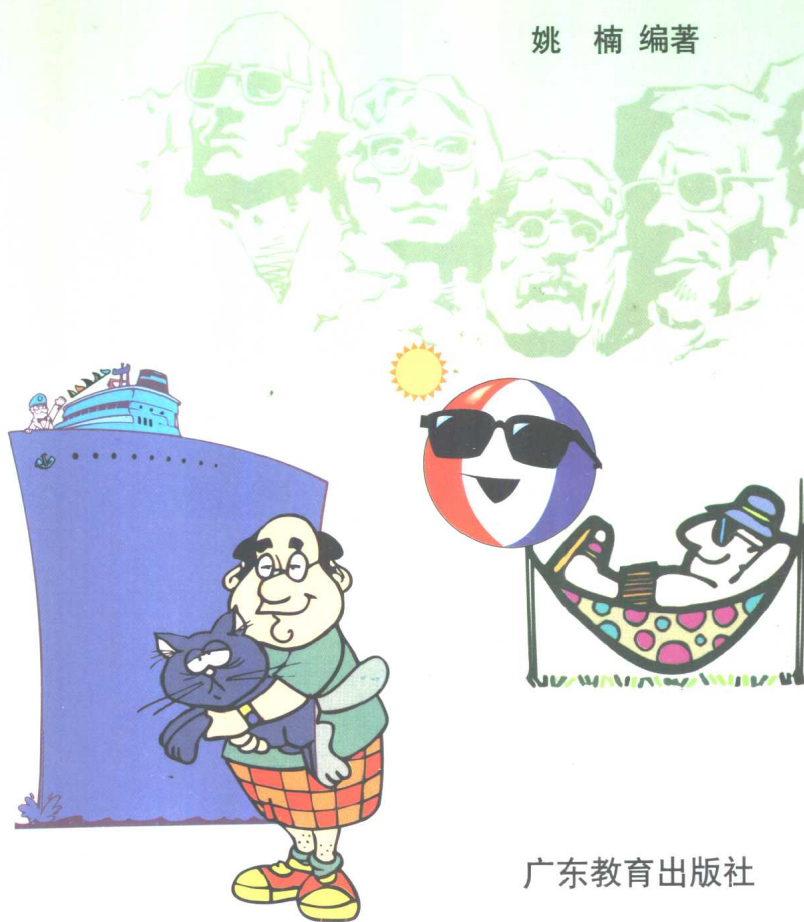
Relaxing English Gas Station

轻松英语加油站·学生英语课外阅读系列

A Selection of Humorous Stories

走进幽默天地

姚楠 编著



广东教育出版社



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编 者 的 话

浓厚的兴趣和广泛的知识是学习英语的重要条件，盖惟此才有开卷之欲，惟此才能触类旁通。

《轻松英语加油站》英语系列读物集趣味性和知识性于一体，旨在激发英语学习者的学习兴趣，拓展英语爱好者的知识面，进而达到轻轻松松学习、地地道道使用英语之目的。

该系列读物选材新颖，内容涉及文化、教育、科技等各个方面，如文化习俗(《西方节日习俗》)、幽默故事(《走进幽默天地》)、逻辑推理(《侦探故事乐园》)、科技知识(《科普世界新知》)、文化教育(《世界名城名校》)、名人轶事(《名人趣闻轶事》)等。

书中所选各篇相对独立，且大多短小精悍，便于随时翻阅。文中较难较重要的词语均附有读音注解，以扩充读者的词汇量；篇末还配有练习题及参考答案，以加深读者对文章的理解。尤其值得一提的是，书中不少篇章颇适于朗诵复述，而用英语向同学、朋友讲述一个幽默故事，或介绍一个节日习俗，于己于人往往会收到意想不到的奇效！总之，该系列读物力图使英语阅读既生动有趣，回味无穷，又学以致用，益学益智。

本系列读物适合一切英语学习爱好者，尤其是

中学生和大学低年级学生使用。

由于时间仓促，加之编者水平有限，书中错漏在所难免，恳请广大读者指正。

编 者

2001年7月

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Children Humor

When thinking of children, we think of adjectives like lovely, innocent, pure and naughty. The list can go on and on. A humor book can't do without children. They tell the truth, they speak what they like and they don't know much of the world. That's why most of us enjoy children humors. They make us young again, remind us of our days at their age and set us thinking more about ourselves.



1. Punishment

One day a little girl came home from school, and said to her mother, "Mommy, today in school I was punished for something that I didn't do."

The mother exclaimed, "But that's terrible! I'm going to have a talk with your teacher about this! By the way, what was it that you didn't do?"

The little girl replied, "My homework."



Tell whether the following statements are true or false, write T or F in the brackets:

1. The girl must be a mischievous(淘气的) student in school. ()

2. The girl was punished in school because she had done something wrong. ()
3. The girl deserved the punishment because she didn't do what she should do. ()
4. From what the girl said in the first paragraph, it seems that she became the scapegoat(替罪羊) of somebody else. ()



2. The Old Student

Early one morning, a mother goes in to wake up her son. "Wake up, son. It's time to go to school!"

"But why, Mom? I don't want to go."

"Give me two reasons why you don't want to go."

"Well, the kids hate me for one, and the teachers hate me also!"

"Oh, that's no reason not to go to school. **Come on** ① now and get ready."

"Give me two reasons why I should go to school."

"Well, for one, you're 52 years old. And for another, you're the **PRINCIPAL** ②!"



Discussion topic: Why is the story funny?

① come on 〈口〉 [用于祈使语气] 快, 走吧; 照我说的做; 别装腔; 得了吧

② principal [ˈprɪnsɪpəl] *n.* 校长



3. Pulling Hair Hurts

A six-year-old comes crying to his mother because his little sister *pulls* ① his hair.

“Don’t be angry,” the mother says, “Your little sister doesn’t realize that pulling hair *hurts* ②.”

A short while later, there’s more crying, and the mother goes to *investigate* ③. This time the sister is *bawling* ④ and her brother says, “Now she knows.”



Multiple choices:

- Of course, you are not able to open the door. It says “Push”, but you _____.
A. drag B. pull C. open D. yell
- If you are investigating the market for the sales of a product, then it means you are _____ the market to see how well the product will sell.
A. looking for B. looking on
C. looking into D. looking out
- Why does the little sister in the story crying hard?
A. Her brother gives her a good beat.

① pull [pul] *vt.* 扯; 拖; 拉

② hurt [hɜ:t] *vi.* 致痛, 带来痛苦

③ investigate [in'vestigeit] *v.* 调查; 研究

④ bawl [bɔ:l] *vi.* 放声痛哭

- B. Her stomach aches.
- C. She wants to go out to play.
- D. Her brother pulls her hair also.



4. White Hair

One day, a little girl is sitting and watching her mother *do the dishes* ① at the kitchen *sink* ②. She suddenly notices that her mother has several *strands* ③ of white hair.

She looks at her mother and *inquisitively* ④ asks, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Her mother replies, "Well, *every time* ⑤ you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

The little girl thinks about this for a while and then asks, "Momma, *how come* ⑥ all of grandma's hairs are white?"



Translate the following sentences into English, using words or phrases in the story:

1. 你怎么昨天晚上不告诉我?
2. 儿童一般都好奇爱问。

-
- ① do the dishes 洗碗
 - ② sink [sɪŋk] *n.* (厨房的) 洗涤槽
 - ③ strand [strænd] *n.* (绳、线、发等的) 股
 - ④ inquisitively [ɪn'kwɪzətɪvli] *adv.* 好问地; 好奇地
 - ⑤ every time 无论如何; 每当
 - ⑥ how come... 〈口〉怎么会; 为什么

3. 每当碰到问题时，他总是问他爸爸。



5. Thumb Sucking

Little Lucy loved *sucking* ① her thumb so much. She was now five years old but hadn't stopped the bad habit. In order to stop the bad habit, Lucy's mother lied to her that her stomach would *swell* ② and would finally *burst* ③ if she didn't stop the habit. The lie scared little Lucy and she stopped the habit immediately.

A month later, *pregnant* ④ Mrs. Blecker *paid them a visit* ⑤. When Lucy came in to *greet* ⑥ her she stopped first to *stare at* ⑦ Mrs. Blecker, then greeted Mrs. Blecker. Mrs. Blecker noticed the *hesitation* ⑧ and asked, "Hi, Lucy! I guess you are wondering where I've been, aren't you?"

The little girl answered, "Not *exactly* ⑨, Mrs. Blecker, "I know what you've been doing and you'd better stop it

- ① suck [sʌk] *vt.* 吸; 吮
 ② swell [swel] *vi.* 膨胀, 肿胀
 ③ burst [bɜ:st] *vi.* 胀裂, 胀破
 ④ pregnant [ˈpregnənt] *adj.* 怀孕的
 ⑤ pay sb. a visit 拜访某人
 ⑥ greet [gri:t] *vt.* 问候; 迎接; 招呼
 ⑦ stare at 凝视, 盯着看
 ⑧ hesitation [ˌheziˈteɪʃən] *n.* 犹豫
 ⑨ exactly [ɪgˈzæktli] *adv.* 正确地; 严密地

immediately.”



Tell whether the following statements are true or false, write T or F in the brackets:

1. Wood often swells when wet. ()
2. Pregnant Mrs. Blecker meant Mrs. Blecker was expecting a baby. ()
3. Lucy knew what Mrs. Blecker had been doing. ()
4. Lucy thought that Mrs. Blecker had the habit of sucking of her thumb. ()
5. Lucy thought that Mrs. Blecker's stomach would burst. ()



6. Are You a Cop?

While taking a *routine* ① report at a *primary* ② school, I was *interrupted* ③ by a little girl about six years old. Looking up and down at my uniform, she asked, “Are you a cop?” “Yes,” I answered, and continued writing the report. “My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?” “Yes, that's right,” I told her. “Well, then,” she said as she *extended* ④ her foot toward

① *routine* [ru:'ti:n] *adj.* 例行的; 惯例的

② *primary* ['praɪməri] *adj.* 初级的

③ *interrupt* [ɪntə'rʌpt] *vt.* 打断(讲话、休息、工作、讲话人等)

④ *extend* [ɪk'stend] *vt.* 伸出; 伸开; 展开

me, "Would you please *tie*^① my shoe?"



Translate the following sentences into English:

1. 对不起, 打扰了, 我有紧急口信带给你。
2. 学生必须穿校服。
3. 他们对穷人伸出了援助之手。
4. 管家怀疑地上下打量了这个陌生人之后才让他进屋。



7. Rainbow

Returning home from my job as a *painter*^② and *decorator*^③, I noticed a *magnificent*^④ *rainbow*^⑤ in the evening sky. *Eager*^⑥ to show my young son something that he had never seen before, I took him outside and told him to have a look. "Wow!" he *exclaimed*^⑦. "How'd you do it, Dad?"



Comprehension questions:

1. What is a rainbow?
2. Why did the child exclaim?

-
- ① tie [tai] *vt.* 把(带子等)打(结)
 - ② painter [peɪntə] *n.* 画家
 - ③ decorator [ˈdekəreɪtə] *n.* 装饰者; 装潢者
 - ④ magnificent [mæɡˈnɪfɪsənt] *adj.* 极美的; 很动人的
 - ⑤ rainbow [ˈreɪnbəʊ] *n.* 彩虹
 - ⑥ eager [ˈiːɡə] *adj.* 热切的; 渴望的
 - ⑦ exclaim [ɪksˈkleɪm] *vi.* 呼喊; 惊叫; 大声叫



8. Dog Washing

A young boy, about eight years old, was at the corner *grocery*^① choosing a box of *laundry*^② *detergent*^③.

The *grocer*^④ walked over, and, trying to be friendly, asked the boy if he had a lot of laundry to do.

“Oh, no laundry,” the boy said, “I’m going to wash my dog.”

“But you shouldn’t use this to wash your dog. It’s very *powerful*^⑤ and if you wash your dog in this, he’ll get sick. In fact, it might even kill him.”

But the boy was not to be stopped and carried the detergent to the *counter*^⑥ and paid for it, even as the grocer still tried to *talk him out of*^⑦ washing his dog.

About a week later the boy was back in the store to buy some candy. The grocer asked the boy how his dog was doing.

“Oh, he died,” the boy said.

① *grocery* [ˈgrəʊsəri] *n.* 食品杂货店; 杂货店

② *laundry* [ˈləʊndri] *n.* 洗涤; 要洗的衣服; 洗衣店

③ *detergent* [diˈtɜ:dʒənt] *n.* 清洗剂, 洗涤剂

④ *grocer* [ˈgrəʊsə] *n.* 杂货商

⑤ *powerful* [ˈpaʊəfʊl] *adj.* 强有力的; 效力大的

⑥ *counter* [ˈkaʊntə] *n.* 柜台

⑦ *talk sb. out of doing sth.* 劝说某人别做某事

The grocer, trying not to be an I-told-you-so, said he was sorry the dog died but added, "I tried to tell you not to use that detergent on your dog."

"Well," the boy replied, "I don't think it was the detergent that killed him."

"Oh? What was it then?"

"I think it was the *spindryer*①!"



Comprehension questions:

1. Did the dog die because the boy washed it with detergent? How do you know?
2. What does "trying not to be an I-told-you-so" in the story mean?
3. Does the word "sorry" mean that the grocer apologized to the boy?



9. Eat Like a Horse

Little Susan was Mother's helper. She helped *set the table*② when it was time for dinner. *Presently*③ everything was ready, the guest came in, and everyone sat down. Then Mother noticed something was *missing*④.

① spindryer [ˈspɪndraɪə] *n.* 旋转式脱水机

② set the table 摆桌子

③ presently [ˈprezəntli] *adv.* 不久; 很快

④ miss [mɪs] *vi.* 丢失

“Susan,” she said, “you didn’t put *a knife and fork*① at Mr. Smith’s place.”

“I thought he wouldn’t need them,” explained Susan. “Daddy says he always *eats like a horse*②!”



A comprehension question:

Why didn’t Susan put a knife and fork at Mr. Smith’s place?



10. We’re Squirrels

A teacher at our high school noticed a group of young children wandering around the halls. They were dressed in *costumes*③, and he *assumed*④ they were in a *ballet*⑤ being *rehearsed*⑥ in the *auditorium*⑦. He asked if they were looking for the *bathroom*⑧ and they said they were. Unable to tell their *sex*⑨ because of the costumes

-
- ① a knife and fork 一副刀叉
② eat like a horse 吃得很多
③ costume [ˈkɒstjʊm] n. 戏装
④ assume [əˈsjʊm] vt. 想当然地认为; 臆断; 假定
⑤ ballet [ˈbæleɪ] n. 芭蕾舞; 芭蕾舞剧
⑥ rehearse [riˈhɜːs] vt. 预演, 排练, 排演
⑦ auditorium [ˌɔːdɪˈtɔːriəm] n. 礼堂
⑧ bathroom [ˈbɑːθru:m] n. 〈委婉语〉 厕所, 洗手间
⑨ sex [seks] n. 性别

and anxious to lead them to the correct room, he asked, "Are you little boys or little girls?" "Neither," they *chorused*^①. "We're *squirrels*^②."



Tell whether the following statements are true or false, write T or F in the brackets:

1. The young children were possibly actors in a ballet.
()
2. They were looking for a bathroom because they wanted to have a bath. ()
3. The teacher didn't know whether they were boys or girls. ()
4. The teacher asked them about their sex because he must know whether he should lead them to the bathroom for gentlemen or that for ladies. ()
5. The children were not squirrels, but acted as squirrels.
()



11 Kittens

My six-year-old daughter showed me a picture of a fat cat she had drawn. I asked her what kind it was and she told me it was a cat that was going to have *kittens*^③.

① chorus ['kɔ:rəs] *vi.* 异口同声地说话

② squirrel ['skwɪrəl] *n.* 松鼠

③ kitten ['kɪtən] *n.* 小猫