

Happy English

快乐学英语系列

英语笑话谜语集

(中级)

晓林 阳子 编

English
Jokes And Riddles



W 世界图书出版公司

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编者的话

本书是《英语笑话谜语集》的续篇,现在同读者见面了。同第一集相比,本书的难度有所提高,主要读者对象为英语词汇量在 2000 个英语单词左右的中级水平的英语学习者和爱好者。因此,学习过高中英语的读者、刚进入大学学习大学英语课程的学生、以及水平相当的业余英语自学者都可以借助字典及本书提供的注释看懂编入本书的英语笑话和谜语。

学习过几年英语的读者都会有这样的感受,学习一种外语的同时也在学习和了解另一种文化。因此,仅仅掌握一种语言的发音、句法和语义是不够的,我们还应在可能的限度内学习和逐步扩大对该语言相关的种种文化背景的了解。换言之,这两个方面的学习是相辅相成、互为补充的。即便是在语言较为浅显、篇幅简短的英语笑话和谜语中,我们也不时可以看到语言幽默和有关民族的文化之间的关系。例如:

How do you send a message to Vikings?

In Norse code.

在这则谜语中,有三个文化知识点是必须掌握的:①Vikings 专指 8-11 世纪时劫掠欧洲西北海岸的北欧海盗,地理位置为今日北欧的斯堪的纳维亚(Scandinavia)半岛,包括 Norway, Sweden 和 Finland 等国,②Norse code 仿 Morse code (莫尔斯电码)构成,Morse code 是由美国发明家 Samuel F. B. Morse (1791-1872)首创,为现代电报通讯的发展奠定了

基础;③Norse 为对古代挪威人的称呼,并泛指古代斯堪的纳维亚人,此单词与 Morse 同韵。了解了此三点,这一谜语所包含的幽默意义就自然流露出来了。又如:

Teacher: Elmer, who won the War of Roses?

Elmer: It's not over yet, but so far the bugs are winning.

这一笑话与英国历史有关。1455 - 1485 年的 30 年里,英国的两大王族兰开斯特家族(Lancaster House, 其族徽为 red rose)和约克家族(York House, 其族徽为 white rose)进行封建混战,后由亨利七世(Henry VII)统一两大家族,建立都铎王朝,玫瑰战争结束。Elmer 因不知此历史典故而把 the War of the Roses 理解为 the war between bugs and roses。

此外,读者可以看到,《圣经》与英语有极为密切的关系。事实上,现代英语的形成与发展与《圣经》英译本的翻译是不可分的。本书选入的谜语和笑话中,就有好几则是与《圣经》有联系的,如 Adam 和 Eva (亚当和夏娃)(89)、Moses (摩西)(171), Noah's Ark (诺亚方舟)(586)、Cain (该隐)(515), Mary 和 Joseph (圣母玛利亚和耶稣养父约瑟夫)等。可以说,了解一些基督教和《圣经》的基础知识,对提高英语水平是会有很大帮助的。

有的笑话和谜语则和英美文学、风俗习惯、体育活动、影视娱乐等相关,读者只要有意识地予以关注,是会有所收获的。

当然,这样一本英语谜语笑话的选本的重点仍

在语言学习方面,我们通过加注解的方式,希望在这方面能对读者有所帮助。我们在此特别提请有兴趣的读者,在阅读过程中可多注意某些修辞手段的运用,如双关语(pun)、回文(palindrome)、歧义(ambiguity)、押韵(rhyme)、对照(antithesis)等,在逐步培养形成这种 awareness 的过程中,读者的英语水平一定会有较大提高。

本书编注过程中如有不当之处,盼请读者指出,以便我们再版时改正。

编 者
于上海交通大学
外语学院英语系
1998 年 5 月

1. A boy was walking with his dog. A policeman came by and asked, "Does that dog have a license?"

The boy answered, "He doesn't need one; he isn't old enough to drive."

● license: ① 驾驶执照; ② 许可证。

2. An old lady bought three packets of mothballs and came back to the shop the next morning.

"Six more packets of mothballs, please," she said.

The assistant looked surprised. "You must have a lot of moths."

"Yes," replied the old lady. "I've spent a whole day tossing these things at them, but I've only hit one so far."

● mothball: 卫生球, 樟脑丸。moth: 蛾; 蛀虫。

toss at : 把 · 扔向...。

3. Teacher: Give me a sentence containing an object.

Student: Yes, ma'am. : "You are very beautiful"

Teacher: That's a sentence, but what's the object?

Student: A good mark.

● object: ① 宾语, 宾格; ② 目的, 目标。

mark: 分数, 成绩。

4. What did the fisherman tell the ranger who told him he needed a permit to fish?

"I'm doing all right with a worm."

● ranger: 国家公园管理员。permit['pɜːmit]: 许可证。

5. A little girl said there was a new baby at her house.

“Has the baby come to stay?” she was asked.

“I think so,” she said, “he’s taken all his things off.”

● take all one’s things off: with nothing on

6. “A dozen mouse traps, please,” said the man.

“Certainly, Sir,” said the salesman. “Do you want to take them with you?”

“No,” said the man sarcastically, “I’ll send the mice over for them.”

● sarcastically[sa.'kæstɪkəli]: 讽刺地、挖苦地。

send...for...: 遣人去拿。

7. Larry: I heard on the radio that in some parts of the world, they use fish heads for money.

Barry: That must make it pretty messy if you want some chewing gum from a slot machine!

● chewing gum: 口香糖。

slot machine: 自动投币售货机。

8. What is faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, and has a ten-acre parking lot?

Super-Market!

● locomotive['ləʊkəˌməʊtɪv] 火车头, 机车。

bound: (一)跳; (一)跃, 跳动。

9. Economics teacher to class: Remember our do's and don'ts. Do date each check; DON'T sign a check with a can of spray paint.

●do's and don'ts[duz ænd daʊnts]. 守则, 规则, 注意事项。
date; 注明日期 a can of spray paint; 一罐喷漆。

10. Freddy: What would you get if you crossed a parrot with a Gorilla?

Eddy: I don't know—but when it talks, you'd better listen!

●cross...with 使杂交。gorilla[gə'ni:lə]: 大猩猩。

11 Manager: You had a terrible season. Ninety-eight fly balls bounced over your head, 71 rolled through your legs, you dropped 210. Your fielding average was .000!

Outfielder: I couldn't help it—the sun was in my eyes!

●fly ball; 腾空球, 高飞球。fielding average; 防守率 (指守场员传杀和助杀数除以守场员防守机会总数所得的商)。outfielder; 外野手。

12. If a boy broke his knee, where could he get a new one?

At the butcher shop where they sell kidneys (kid knees).

●butcher shop; 肉店。kidneys['kidnɪz] 与 kid kneess[kɪd nɪz] 音相近。

13. Why did the potato farmer use a steam roller?

Because he wanted to grow mashed potatoes.

●steam roller 蒸汽压路机。

mashed potatoes: 土豆泥。

14. Why are giraffes so slow to apologize?

It takes a long time for them to swallow their pride.

●giraffe[ˈdʒɪˈraʃ]: 长颈鹿。swallow one's pride: 克制自尊心。

15. Why does Tarzan yell?

He is so strong that every time he beats his chest, it hurts.

●Tarzan ['tɑːzæn]: 泰山, 丛林冒险小说《人猿泰山》(*Tarzan of the Apes*)中主人公名, 其体格魁梧、动作敏捷。

16. A man travels on horseback from New York City to Virginia. The trip normally takes four days. He leaves New York on Wednesday and arrives on the same Wednesday. How could he do this?

His horse is named Wednesday.

17. Two men were playing checkers. They played five games, and each man won the same number of games. How is that possible?

They played different people.

●checkers = chequers, 西洋跳棋。

- 18 What's the difference between a good football player and an industrious man?

One times his passes well, the other passes his time well.

●time one's passes:控制传球的速度。pass one's time:度过、利用时间。industrious[ɪn'dʌstriəs]:勤劳的,勤奋的。

19. What is the difference between an ice-cream cone and a bully?

You lick one, the other licks you.

●ice-cream cone:冰淇淋卷筒。bully['buli]:①罐头牛肉,腌牛肉;②恶霸,打手,流氓。

20. If you saw nine elephants walking down the street with red socks and one elephant walking down the street with green socks, what would this prove?

That nine out of ten elephants wear red socks.

●nine out of ten.①十个中的九个;②十有八九。

21. Why did the girl stand on a ladder, when she learned how to sing?

Because she wanted to reach the high notes.

●high notes:高音。note:乐音,音符,音键。

22. How do you send a message to Vikings?

In Norse code.

●Viking['vaɪkɪŋ]:(8-11世纪时劫掠欧洲西北海岸的)

北欧海盗。Norse(古代挪威人)code·此短语仿 Morse code(莫尔斯电码)组成。Samuel F B Morse(1791 - 1872), 美国发明家。

23. Where are there more nobles than at any royal court?

In the library. All the books have titles.

●title: ①标题, 书名; ②头衔, 有头衔者。

24. Which of the king's coats had the most sleeves?

His coat of arms.

●coat of arms: (盾形)纹章; 饰有纹章的外套。

25. Why weren't Dracula's checks cashed?

He was overdrawn at the blood bank.

●Dracula['drækjulo]: 德拉库拉伯爵, 19 世纪英国作家 Bram Stoker 所著小说《德拉库拉》中的吸血鬼之王; 令人恐怖者。overdraw: 透支(存款帐户)。

26. What time was it when the lion ate the prime minister?

8p.m. (ate p.m.)

27. When a carpenter builds a house, where does he strike the first nail?

On the head.

●on the head = on the head of the nail

28. Why did the man keep a ruler on his newspaper?

Because he wanted to get the story straight.

●get straight; ①[字面义]把 .. 弄直; ②了解, 搞清楚。

29. Did you hear the story about the smog?

You don't have to tell me, it's all over town.

●smog[sm(oke) + (f)og]: 烟雾。

30. If the green house is on the right side of the road,
and the red house is on the left side of the road,
where is the White House?

In Washington, D. C.

●White House: 白宫, 美国政府。

31. Why are poets so poor?

Because rhyme doesn't pay.

●pay: ①支付, 缴纳; ②生利, 有报偿。rhyme[raɪm]. 韵, 押韵, 韵文, 押韵诗。

32. What happened to Ray when he jumped off the Empire State Building?

He is now called X-ray

●Ray: ①人名; ②光线。X-ray 与 ex-Ray 音同。Empire State Building: 帝国州大厦, 在纽约市, 高 1250 英尺, 有 102 层, 1931 年建成时为世界最高建筑。

33. Why is a grouchy kindergarten teacher like a collection of old car parts?

She's a crank surrounded by a bunch of little nuts.

●grouchy['graʊtʃɪ]: 脾气坏的, 爱发牢骚的。crank: ①曲柄; ②脾气乖戾的人。

34. What punctuation mark is used in writing dance music?

A polka dot.

●punctuation mark, 标点符号。dance music: 舞蹈音乐。

polka[ˈpɒlkə]dot. ①波尔卡舞曲顿音记号; ②圆点花纹图案。

35 Why do chickens eat more than dragons?

There are more chickens than dragons.

36. Why did the hippie like to stand in front of the electric fan?

It blew his mind

●hippie[ˈhɪpi]嬉皮士, 20 世纪 60 年代出现于美国的青年颓废派。blow one's mind. ①(由于服用麻醉药物等)使人产生幻觉; ②使人极度兴奋。

37. Why would someone in jail want to catch the measles?

So he could break out.

●catch the measles [ˈmi:zlz]: 患麻疹。break out: ①爆发, 出现皮疹; ②冲出, 逃走。

38. How do they pay people who work in a candle factory?

By the wick (week)

●wick: 灯芯, 烛芯。wick 与 week 音相近。

39. What is the difference between a frog and a cat?

A frog croaks all the time, the cat only nine times

●croak[krɔ:k]呱呱地叫;发嘎声。“the cat (croaks) only nine times”语出自谚语“A cat has nine lives.”(猫有九命)。

40. Why did the surgeon wear a tuxedo in the operating room?

Because he always dressed formally for an opening.

●tuxedo[tʌk'sɪdəu];无尾礼服,小礼服。opening: ①开幕,首场演出,②开刀,动手术。

41. Harry: How much did your dog cost?

Tom: Five hundred dollars. He's part beagle and part bull.

Harry: What part is bull?

Tom: The part about the five hundred dollars.

●beagle['bi:gl];长耳短腿小猎犬。

42. Why did the match box?

Because it saw the ski jump, the wood fence, and the fruit punch.

●skijump:跳台滑雪助滑道。wood fence:木制栅栏。fruit punch:潘趣酒(用酒、果汁、牛奶等调和的饮料)。

43. Girl's father : So you want to become my son-in-law?

Young man: No, sir. but if I marry your daughter, I don't see how I can get out of it .

- son-in-law:女婿。注意 in-law (姻亲)的用法,如 daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law 等。

44. Why did the farmer put one rabbit at the front of the hutch and the other at the back?

He liked to split hares(hairs).

- hutch:笼、舍,兔箱。split hairs:作过分琐细的分析,拘泥细节,斤斤计较。

45. Herby: I've just discovered a wonderful way to avoid having my teeth filled.

Harvey: What is it, a new toothpaste?

Herby: No. Before the dentist looks at the X-rays, I sneak them over to a photo shop and have the cavities touched up.

- tooth paste:牙膏。sneak:偷偷拿走。cavity['kævɪti]:①洞,龋洞,②凹处。touch up:润色,修改。

46. Randy: What kind of dog do you have—a setter or a pointer?

Sandy: Both. He's an upsetter and a disappointment.

- setter:塞特种猎狗。pointer:短毛大猎犬。注意两词加前缀后意义发生变化:upsetter:扰人心绪者、烦人者。disappointment:使人失望者。

47. How is a chicken stronger than an elephant?

An elephant can get chicken pox, but a chicken can't get elephant pox.

●chicken pox: 水痘。“elephant pox”仿 chicken pox 构成。

48. Harry: What happened to that parrot you had?

Tom: I got rid of it. It listened to the radio too much and learned static.

●parrot: 鹦鹉。static[ˈstætɪk] 静止的, 恬静的。

49. What does a farmer call a steer that he borrows and has to return?

A stereo (steer he owe)

●steer: 小公牛, 阉牛。stereo(立体声装置)与 steer he owe 音近

50. Why are woodpeckers too expensive to feed?

Because they eat food by the peck.

●woodpecker: 啄木鸟。by the peck. ①通过啄的方式; ②以配克为单位。peck, 英美重量名, = 8 夸脱。

51. A cabbage, a faucet and a tomato had a race. How did it go?

The cabbage was ahead, the faucet was running and the tomato tried to Ketchup.

●cabbage(卷心菜)一词中含有字母组合 cab(出租汽车)。faucet[ˈfɔ:sɪt] 龙头。running 取自于 running water(自来水)。ketchup(番茄沙司)与 catch up 音近。

52. Juliet: You remind me of the boundless ocean.

Romeo: Because I'm so wild and reckless and romantic?