

开心英汉阅读丛书

# 幽默篇

贾卫章 张淑芳 主编



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# 前 言

众所周知,阅读能力是学习外语所必须达到的首要能力。但长期以来,人们却不愿意主动去阅读。一是因为在阅读过程中会碰到众多生词,二是因为阅读材料枯燥无味。因此中国人学习英语往往是先从背词汇手册开始的,而这样的学习效果却并不显著,因为只记住孤零零的单词,而不把单词放入一定的语言环境中,所记的单词是不牢固的,往往会很快忘掉。因此,记单词、加强阅读能力的最佳方法是主动去阅读。

俗话说得好,“兴趣是学习的老师”。本书正是从这一目的出发,从大量的幽默阅读材料中精心选择了300多篇有趣、合适的材料,激发学习者阅读的兴趣,让学习者主动去读,从而扩大词汇量、提高阅读能力。

本书按材料内容由短到长、由易到难共分为四册:第一册包括幽默故事106篇,第二册80篇,第三册70篇,第四册54篇。在前两册中,每篇的内容虽然不多(长度控制在100字以内),但篇篇短小精悍,读后使人忍俊不禁;在后两册中,每篇的内容长度大约在150字,具备了一定的故事情节,在每一篇故事原文旁边对一些生词、难词作了汉语注释。同时,为了保障读者能够读懂故事,在每篇之后设置了一个针对故事情节高潮的自测题。一般来说,如果读者没有做对自测题,那么就说明对原文的理解存在偏差,需要再进一步的理解。在书的最后提供了故事的译文和自测题的答案。本书适用于中学生、大学低年级学生、英语爱好者。

山师大外语学院的崔正勤教授在百忙之中对本书进行了审阅,并提出了许多宝贵建议,在此表示感谢。在编写过程中参考了许多报刊杂志和外文书籍,对原作者表示衷心感谢!

由于我们水平有限,所以本书中可能存在缺点和错误,欢迎使用本书的读者批评指正。

作 者

2000 年元月

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## 1 Can You Figure It out?

[1] The owner of a large company, about to take a trip overseas<sup>1</sup>, dropped into<sup>2</sup> his office early in the morning to make some arrangements. He was leaving for the airport when he met the night watchman<sup>3</sup> who had been on duty that very evening. The latter stopped the owner and told him that he had dreamed that night of his employer's plane exploding after take off.

[2] Superstitious<sup>4</sup>, the owner postponed<sup>5</sup> his trip.

[3] As things turned out, the night watchman's dream was correct. The plane crashed<sup>6</sup> just after leaving the ground. The owner sent for the night watchman and gave him \$5 000 as a reward<sup>7</sup>. Then he fired him. Why did he make such a bizarre decision<sup>8</sup>?

### Notes:

1. take a trip overseas 去海外短期旅行
2. drop into 走进
3. watchman 巡夜者
4. superstitious 迷信
5. postpone 推迟
6. crash 坠落
7. reward 报酬
8. make such a bizarre decision 作出这种异乎寻常的决定

**Quiz:**

The owner made such a bizarre decision because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the night watchman had stolen \$ 5 000 from him
- B. the night watchman had a bad dream
- C. the night watchman fell asleep on duty

## 2 Do You Care for Omar?<sup>1</sup>

[1] Two young men had been invited out to dinner by their employer. During the course of the meal the conversation drifted into channels<sup>2</sup> which got the young friends into rather deep water<sup>3</sup> for them.

[2] "Do you care for Omar?" asked their host, thinking to discover the literary tastes of the young men.

[3] "Pretty well," the one replied, "but, personally, I prefer Chianti<sup>4</sup>."

[4] The subject was abandoned<sup>5</sup>, but on the way home the other said to his chum<sup>6</sup>:

[5] "Why don't you simply say you don't know when you're asked something you don't understand? Omar isn't a wine, you idiot. It's a kind of cheese."

### Notes:

1. Do you care for Omar? 你喜欢看奥玛的作品吗?

Omar Khayyam 奥玛开阳,波斯诗人及天文学家

2. the conversation drifted into channels 谈话不知不觉转到其他方面

3. get sb. into rather deep water 使某人陷入困境

4. Chianti 意大利所产的红葡萄酒

5. The subject was abandoned. 话题未进行下去。

6. chum 好朋友

**Quiz :**

What was about the two young men?

- A. Their literary tastes were too bad.
- B. They liked drinking wine.
- C. The other liked cheese more.

### 3 Talking to Heaven

[1] A small boy had watched a telephone repairman climb a pole, connect the test set<sup>1</sup> and try the connection with the test board<sup>2</sup>. There was some trouble obtaining the connection<sup>3</sup>. The youngster listened a few minutes and rushed into<sup>4</sup> the house exclaiming, "Mamma, come out here quick. There is a man up a telephone pole talking to heaven<sup>5</sup>."

[2] "What makes you think he is talking to heaven?"

[3] "Because he hollered<sup>6</sup> 'Hello! Hello! Hello!' Good Lord, what's the matter up there, can't anyone hear?<sup>7</sup>"

#### Notes:

1. test set 测试设备

2. the connection with the test board 与测试台联系的情况

3. There was some trouble obtaining the connection. 电话不通了。

4. rush into 奔进

5. There is a man up a telephone pole talking to heaven. 有个人爬在电线杆上跟天说话。

6. holler 叫喊

7. Good Lord, what's the matter up there, can't anyone hear? 老天爷, 那儿(天堂)出了什么事, 没有人听见吗?

#### Quiz:

Why did the boy ask so?

A. He wanted to talk to heaven.

B. He worried that nobody in heaven answered the telephone.

C. He didn't understand the repairman's act.

## 4 The Advantages of Wearing Glasses<sup>1</sup>

[1] Helen's eyes were not very good, so she usually wore glasses. But when she was nineteen and began to go out with a young man<sup>2</sup>, she never wore glasses when she was with him. When he came to the door to take her out, she would take her glasses off, and when she got back home again and he left, she would put them on.

[2] One day her mother asked her,

[3] "But Helen, why do you never wear glasses when you are with Jim? He takes you to such lovely<sup>3</sup> places in his car, but you can't see anything."

[4] "Well, mother," said Helen, "I look prettier to Jim when I'm not wearing my glasses—and he looks better to me, too."

### Notes:

1. wear glasses 戴眼镜
2. go out with a young man 与男子交朋友
3. lovely 漂亮的, 可爱的

**Quiz:**

What does Jim look like in Helen's eyes?

- A. Handsome.
- B. Ugly.
- C. Just so so.

## 5 A Japanese Fable<sup>1</sup>

[1] A peasant saw an old man he knew planting something on the other side of the river.

[2] The peasant called out<sup>2</sup> to him, "What are you planting, grandad<sup>3</sup>?"

[3] The old man did not speak for a moment, then said, "swim over<sup>4</sup> and I'll tell you."

[4] The peasant did not like the idea of swimming across the river. But he did want to know what the old man was doing. He swam over. The old man whispered<sup>5</sup> in his ear, "I'm planting peas<sup>6</sup> in my garden."

[5] "Then why was it necessary for me to swim across the river. You could have shouted, I would have heard quite clearly on that side of the river."

### Notes:

1. fable 寓言
2. call out 大声地叫喊
3. grandad 老大爷
4. swim over 游过来
5. whisper 低语, 低声说
6. pea 豌豆



[6] “Oh, no, I couldn’t do that. The sparrows<sup>7</sup> would have heard me and eaten up<sup>8</sup> my peas.”

7. sparrow 麻雀

8. eat up 吃光

**Quiz:**

Why did the old man whisper his words to the peasant?

- A. Because something wrong with his throat.
- B. Because he didn’t want his words heard by sparrows.
- C. Because he wanted his words heard clearly by the peasant.