

英语口语精编

The Finest Collection
of English

1

马 洵 马 琳 主 编



天津大学出版社

The
Finest Collection
of
English Humour
英语幽默精编(1)

主编 马 洵 马 琳

编委 田振德 许世英 吴翼彬

马树明 李 红 刘 畅

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内 容 提 要

本书根据国外出版的书刊精选英语幽默故事 200 余篇, 每篇幽默故事均有精解注释和关键句的译文, 使读者一目了然, 更好地体会其中的乐趣和哲理。内容包括人生、工作、学习、社会和文化。这些幽默故事大多在讲英语国家广为流传, 语言诙谐, 寓意明确, 易于理解, 可以使每位读者增添生活的情趣和信心。

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前 言

英语幽默是经过锤炼而形成的语言形式。它语言通俗,寓意深刻,给人以启迪,是学习英语中不可忽视的一个重要方面。

英语幽默在一定程度上反映了讲英语国家的政治经济、历史文化和风土人情。人们可以用幽默的方式来消除分歧,表示歉意,表示拒绝或进行批评。对于有些事情来说,幽默是成功的唯一途径。我们还可以利用幽默的方式减除痛苦,抵消伤感,缓解紧张,松弛情绪,愉悦心境,健脾养胃,增添生活的情趣和信心。总之,幽默感是智力上的优越感。

本书精编的英语幽默故事在遣词造句方面主要有4种方式。

一、谐音 谐音是英语幽默的一种主要方式,这方面的例子不胜枚举。

“Knock, knock.”

—“Who’s there?”

—“No bell.”

—“Nobel, who?”

—“No bell, so I knock, knock.”

来访者敲门是门上没有门铃(No bell),屋里的人却误以为是一位名叫 Nobel 的人来访,于是闹出上述笑话。

二、一词多义 英语中一词多义的现象很多,而英语幽默

就利用了英语词汇的这一特点。

When the waitress asked how we'd like our steaks, I said, "Medium," my husband said, "Medium," and my seven-years-old son said trustingly, "Large."

medium 可作“烤制适中”解。也可以作“中等,适中”解,饭店的牛排,根据烤制的程度,分为 rare, medium 和 well-done, 而不依大、中、小区分。这个顽童争强好胜,以为他父母亲点的中份,便开口要大份。

三、双关语 用词造句在表面上是一种意思,而其深层结构却隐含着另一种意思,这种修辞方法叫作双关语。在英语幽默故事中的双关语也是屡见不鲜的。

"For ten long, lean years," the author told the producer, "I've been writing this drama, working on it till my fingers were cramped and aching, my brain and body weary."

"Too bad," the producer murmured, "all work, and no play."

从表面上看 play 作“消遣”解,如成语 All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. 但他的弦外有音。其真实用意是批评编剧劳而无获,“辛辛苦苦,没有剧本”。

四、成语引伸 英语幽默的一般做法是有时根据实际需要,将成语稍加修改而产生新意。

"Never ventured, never lost." 这是 "Never ventured, never gained." (不入虎穴,焉得虎子)的变异。一词之变,反映了两种截然不同的处世哲学,也揭示了前怕狼,后怕虎的懦夫性格。

本书内容丰富、题材广泛,形式多样,即适用于课堂教学,又有助于读者提高学习英语的兴趣和应用英语的能力。

在编写过程中,我们参阅了众多的书刊和资料,在此我们向原作者表示衷心感谢。参加本书编写的人员有马洵、马琳、田振德、许世英、吴翼彬、马树明、李红、刘畅、朱国宾、焦梅青等。

由于编者水平所限,书中可能有欠妥之处,诚请读者指正。

编 者
1999 年 9 月

CONTENTS

1. To Cook Your Cabbage	(1)
2. Their Dumb Boss	(2)
3. A Very Pretty Girl	(3)
4. The Longest Chopsticks	(4)
5. Husband and Wife	(5)
6. The World's First, Greatest and Wisest Financier	(6)
7. Roaches	(7)
8. A Shop-talk	(8)
9. Give Me the Address of the Other Girl!	(9)
10. Jack and the Duck Soup	(10)
11. Am I All Right?	(12)
12. Jack and Billy	(13)
13. Look at That Stupid Man!	(14)
14. We Both Don't Know How to Read or Write ...	(16)
15. Two Jobs	(17)
16. An Anecdote	(18)
17. Who's Going to Knot My New Silk Tie?	(20)
18. Aladdin Rubbed Me the Wrong Way	(21)
19. What Do You Think I Hired a Lawyer For?	(22)
20. Aesop and the Traveller	(23)
21. Then We Can Have the Peace!	(24)
22. A Broken Home	(25)

23. The Line Is Even Longer!	(26)
24. An Agreement	(27)
25. Is Two Weeks Fast?	(28)
26. Did You Get Rid of It?	(29)
27. A Clever Boy	(30)
28. Do You Speak English?	(31)
29. The New Name	(32)
30. Their Dog Bit Me!	(33)
31. Did You Want to Tell Me Something?	(34)
32. A Private Conversation	(35)
33. The Medical Term	(37)
34. He's Senile!	(38)
35. The Good Fortune	(39)
36. Wonderful!	(40)
37. The Three Dead Men	(41)
38. The Instructor and the Student	(43)
39. The Girlfriend	(44)
40. Relax	(45)
41. I Didn't Catch a Single Fish!	(46)
42. The Fear of Thunder	(47)
43. Everything except the Weather	(48)
44. A Thirsty Ghost	(50)
45. Doctor and Patient	(51)
46. A Forgetful Couple	(52)
47. Which Eye Is Blind?	(54)
48. Hit Him Again!	(55)

49. Really Swallowed a Horse?	(56)
50. Because I Pushed Him in	(58)
51. An Advertisement	(59)
52. He Often Does This!	(61)
53. Food and Talk	(62)
54. Without Any More Trouble	(63)
55. The Last One	(64)
56. Do the English Speak English?	(66)
57. No Wrong Numbers	(68)
58. Edison's Thinking Cap	(69)
59. Do You Call That a Hat?	(71)
60. Two Glass Eyes	(72)
61. They Are Here in My Hand!	(73)
62. The Secret of Success	(75)
63. Three Boasters and a Bear	(76)
64. I Have Spent It All!	(77)
65. A Large Black Umbrella	(79)
66. Who Was Right?	(80)
67. Whose Child?	(82)
68. A Selfish Landlord	(83)
69. The Old Woman and the Judge	(85)
70. My Luggage	(87)
71. Mule	(88)
72. He Hated the Book!	(89)
73. The Costume	(90)
74. The Farmer and His Dog	(91)

75. Buying a Bracelet	(92)
76. Peasant and Landlord	(93)
77. Can You Still Hear Me?	(94)
78. Once upon a Time?	(95)
79. How Times Have Changed!	(96)
80. The Friends and the Bear	(97)
81. A Funny Dialogue	(98)
82. How Exasperating!	(99)
83. Ye Gods!	(100)
84. A Prisoner's Trick	(101)
85. Mr and Mrs Brown	(102)
86. The Second Examination Question	(103)
87. I Am Going to Leave College!	(104)
88. The Three Professors	(105)
89. A Misunderstanding	(106)
90. It's in the Directory!	(108)
91. A Fool and a Wise Man	(109)
92. The Lowest Mark	(110)
93. It's Unfair!	(111)
94. A Box Full of Christmas Cards	(112)
95. My Umbrella	(113)
96. The Two Things	(114)
97. Watching	(115)
98. Why?	(115)
99. When Will She Begin to Work?	(116)
100. A Naughty and Clever Boy	(117)

101. A Wonderful Doctor	(118)
102. A Victim of Football	(120)
103. The Boxer	(121)
104. A Doctor's Instructions	(122)
105. A Young Lady	(123)
106. Never Shoot a Running Bird!	(124)
107. Don't Be Silly!	(125)
108. You've Got More Sense!	(126)
109. A Poor Memory	(127)
110. Why Hit Me?	(128)
111. By the Year 2000	(129)
112. A Spectacular Job	(130)
113. Why I Bought That Second Ticket!	(131)
114. A Barber's Joke	(132)
115. The Olympic Symbol	(133)
116. You!	(134)
117. Why Do You Let Her That Way?	(135)
118. The Night Before	(136)
119. I Shall Die!	(137)
120. The Farmer, His Horse, and His Son	(138)
121. Lost and Found	(139)
122. He Will Mary You after All!	(141)
123. Like Two Boxers	(142)
124. That's All Right!	(143)
125. My Mistake	(144)
126. The Fox and the Grapes	(145)

127. The Fox and the Goat	(146)
128. Enjoy Your Vegetables!	(147)
129. I Forget to Wet the Soap!	(148)
130. My Scales Are All Right!	(149)
131. How Much Is It?	(150)
132. On a Bus	(151)
133. Not at All Well	(152)
134. Haven't You Got a Tongue?	(153)
135. School—Go Slow!	(154)
136. Is Your Wife Economical?	(155)
137. Unmarried or Married?	(156)
138. The Salesman and the Little Girl	(157)
139. Call a Spade a Spade	(158)
140. I Just Don't Believe It!	(159)
141. I Am the Tailor	(160)
142. It's a Great Scheme	(161)
143. You Can't Fool Me!	(162)
144. Use a Pencil	(163)
145. You've Got It Again!	(164)
146. I Won't Sell It	(165)
147. Haircut in Office Time	(166)
148. It's in Her Brown Hand-bag!	(168)
149. I Saw Father Get It Out!	(169)
150. An Interesting Answer	(170)
151. I've Just Come In!	(172)
152. It's My Bag	(173)

153. How Should I Know?	(174)
154. How Do You Do, George?	(175)
155. An Empty Letter	(177)
156. It's Long Distance from New York	(178)
157. He's Been Rude!	(180)
158. Fishing Just for Small Fish	(181)
159. Aren't You Pleased with Us Now?	(182)
160. I Wasn't Asleep!	(184)
161. Waiting	(185)
162. An Announcement	(186)
163. Five and Six	(187)
164. Where Were You Yesterday?	(189)
165. Send the Bill to My Father!	(190)
166. The Most Important Question	(191)
167. That Isn't Her Name!	(192)
168. What Is There to Worry about Now?	(193)
169. What Were They?	(194)
170. You Lose!	(195)
171. What Do You Think of It?	(196)
172. Lincoln and Douglas	(197)
173. A Naughty Boy	(199)
174. Clever or Foolish?	(200)
175. My Fellow Convicts!	(202)
176. The Well-known Millionaire	(203)
177. Take Me Back to the Prison!	(205)
178. A Clear Conscience	(206)

179. Why?	(208)
180. He Is Busy!	(209)
181. Your Car Was His Chair!	(210)
182. You Will Soon Feel Much Happier!	(212)
183. The Letter	(213)
184. That Man Knows the Future!	(214)
185. Two Rich Ladies	(216)
186. We Have No Waiters Here!	(217)
187. That Is a Thief!	(219)
188. Selling Your Ladder?	(220)
189. I Am Half Mad!	(221)
190. Only One Sound	(223)
191. It Was His First Patient!	(224)
192. Always Clean and Tidy	(225)
193. The Ladies' Lavatory	(227)
194. Shopping for a Friend	(228)
195. The Gardener	(229)
196. The White Rose Restaurant	(231)
197. Olives and Grapes	(232)
198. Gentlemen!	(233)
199. The Actress and the Painter	(235)
200. The Old Lion and the Young Lion	(236)
201. Asking for the Position	(238)
202. Setting You Free!	(239)
203. I Did Not Have Time!	(240)
204. It Depends!	(242)

205. The Flat Tyre	(243)
206. How Stupid!	(244)
207. A Little Mouse	(246)
208. A Picture of Some Cheese	(247)
209. At Least... ..	(248)
210. I Was Inside It!	(250)
211. I Call Him Tom!	(251)
212. Without Any Clothes On	(252)
213. I Still Cannot!	(253)
214. Go in Free!	(255)
215. Blowing the Horn	(256)
216. The Small Talking Dog	(257)
217. The Office?	(258)
218. What Did Their Father Mean?	(259)
219. A Beautiful Ring	(261)
220. The Rich Man and the Poor Tailor	(262)
221. Too Clever	(264)
222. Like Father, Like Son	(265)
223. He Has Been Deaf for Years!	(267)
224. I Have Never Been So Angry!	(268)
225. The Lucky Customer	(270)
226. A Joke and a Bag of Gold	(272)
227. Don't Let Anyone Know I Saved You!	(273)
228. What Did He Bark for?	(275)
229. The Presents	(277)
230. His Next Visit to the Barber	(279)

1

To Cook Your Cabbage

A *traveller*^① said one day, “I have seen a *cabbage*^② under the leaves of which a hundred people can stay dry even when it rains hard.” The man who heard his story said, “Yesterday I went by a place where four hundred men were making a *pot*^③, two hundred men inside and two hundred outside.” The traveller was *surprised*^④ and asked him, “What is that huge pot for?” The man *laughed*^⑤ and answered, “Oh, to *cook*^⑥ your cabbage.”

▲ Notes

- ①traveller /'trævlə/ *n.* 旅行者
- ②cabbage /'kæbidʒ/ *n.* 卷心菜, 洋白菜
- ③pot /pɒt/ *n.* 锅, 罐
- ④surprise /sə'praiz/ *vt.* 使惊奇, 使感到意外
- ⑤laugh /lɑ:f/ *vi.* 笑
- ⑥cook /kuk/ *vt.* 煮, 烧, 烹调

2

Their Dumb^① Boss^②

Smith said, “A lot of people *complain*^③ about their boss.” Tom said, “What they don’t *realize*^④ is that they’d be out of work if their boss were any *smarter*.^⑤”

▲ Notes

①dumb /dʌm/ *a.* (美俚)笨的,愚蠢的

②boss /bɒs/ *n.* 老板,上司,工头

③complain /kən'plein/ *vt.* 抱怨,控诉

④realize /'riəlaiz/ *vt.* 认识到,认清

⑤smart /smɑ:t/ *a.* 精明的,机敏的