

• 上外 — 朗文学生系列读物 •

# Short Stories for Comprehension

Ken Methold

## 妙语短篇

### A1



上海外语教育出版社




LONGMAN 朗文

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## 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

妙语短篇. A1: 英文 / (美) 麦瑟尔得 (Methold, K. ) 编;  
江雷红改编. —上海: 上海外语教育出版社, 1996.7 (2000  
重印)

(上外—朗文学生系列读物)

ISBN 7-81046-150-8

I. 妙… II. ①麦…②江… III. 英语-语言读物, 故事  
IV. H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2000) 第17285号

图字: 09-1995-012号

出版发行: 上海外语教育出版社  
朗文出版亚洲有限公司

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电 话: 021-65425300 (总机), 65422031 (发行部)

电子邮箱: bookinfo@sflep.com.cn

网 址: <http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

责任编辑: 王彤福

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印 刷: 上海市印刷十一厂  
经 销: 新华书店上海发行所  
开 本: 850×1168 1/32 印张 3.25 字数 82 千字  
版 次: 1996年7月第1版 2001年11月第13次印刷  
印 数: 20 000 册

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书 号: ISBN 7-81046-150-8 / G · 529

定 价: 4.40 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题, 可向本社调换

# 前言

“上外—朗文学生系列读物”是专门为学生编写的一套阅读理解教学参考图书。内容循序渐进,适合中学与大学不同年级的学生及不同程度的英语自学者,其目的在于帮助读者提高英语阅读理解能力,增加词汇量及增进对英语语法和句型的认识。每册的课文都是一些妙趣横生的故事和西方家喻户晓的笑话。通过阅读,读者还能增进对西方幽默感的理解。

每篇故事后附有六、七项练习,所用的词汇大都可以在课文中找到,一方面方便读者理解题目,另一方面令所学过的词汇在各课不断重现,使学生加深印象。

练习主要包括两大类型:

- (1) 在英语考试中常见的练习,如多项选择题,正误题等。
- (2) 专门针对中国学生在英语学习中的难点而编写的练习,例如辨别不同的词类、如何正确选用介词、为单词或习语寻找同义词或反义词等。

以下概括地介绍这套丛书的各类练习题及它们在教学上的主要作用。

多项选择题:

多项选择题是英语测试中经常出现的题型之一。这套丛书中每个故事后所附的第一个练习就是多项选择题。初级读物(A)的多项选择题由四小题组成,每题有四种选择;中级读物(B)也是由四小题组成,但每题有五种选择;而高级读物(C)则由五小题组成,每题四种选择。这样安排的目的是随着程度的加深,对读者的选择能力有进一步的要求。

正误题:

正误题也是一般英语测试中常见的题型,因此本套丛书中大部分课文后都编排了这种题目,特别在A级和B级读物中。在句子中删除或加进一两个字,往往会使句子的含义完全改观。这类练习不但测试学生对课文内容的理解力,也测试他们对句型的认识。

配对题:

本系列各册有两类配对题,最常见的一类是把两个不完整的句子配对,使

之成为完整的一句话。这类练习把四个句子分解成八段，并把它们混杂排列，学生必须把它们重新拼成四句完整的句子。练习中的句子全都与同一单元中的故事有关。因此，学生阅读课文时要非常注意句子的正确意思及句型结构。这类练习能训练学生考虑：

- (a) 怎样才算是完整的句子；
- (b) 词与词之间是怎样联系的；
- (c) 句子的整体意义是否合理。

第二类配对题要求将问题与答案配对，学生要为每个问题找出相应的答案来。这类练习题可帮助学生：

- (a) 在面对多个问题时判断出正确的答案；
- (b) 联系故事内容考虑答案；
- (c) 熟悉 Who, What, Why, How, Where 等特殊疑问句的句型。

词汇练习：

词汇练习的目的在于帮助学生复习学过的词汇及测试他们记忆词汇的能力。练习重点放在每课的新词上。

其中一类练习是向学生提供词义解释，然后要他们在故事中找出符合这一解释的词汇来。这种练习引导学生用英语去理解词汇的含义，而不是简单地、机械地熟记其中文意思。

另一类词汇练习要求学生在故事中找到所给单词的反义词。这样做不但引导学生用英语去思考词义，同时迫使他们去思索与其相反的意思，从而扩展他们的词汇知识。

为了增加学生对做练习题的兴趣，词汇练习中还包括填字游戏和其他趣味性习题。

拼写练习：

这类练习只在 A 级读物中出现。对于有了一定英语基础的学生，拼写便成为一个较为次要的问题。拼写练习的形式有：

- (a) 要求学生在句中找出拼写错误的单词，并改正它们；
- (b) 把某个单词中字母的次序弄乱，要求学生把它们重新正确排列；
- (c) 要求学生补齐句子中不完整的词。

填空练习：

这类练习的形式很多，例如：

(a) 给学生一段有关课文内容的短文, 要求他们把所缺的单词填写出来。这些短文都经过特别设计, 用不同的方式改写课文中的故事, 学生必须既理解故事内容, 又弄懂短文意思才能正确填空。

(b) 有些短文有意留空不同的词类, 要求学生填上适当的名词、动词、形容词或副词。

(c) 有些练习是简单的句子, 不一定与课文内容有关, 学生必须用所给单词的正确形式填入。

这些不同类型的习题, 目的都是为了帮助读者掌握某个语法重点或教授某种句型。例如在 (a) 类练习中, 常常要求学生填的是介词和连词, 使学生重点学习如何使用这类词。其他类型练习则把重点放在动词或形容词上。

#### 词类练习:

在 B 级和 C 级的读物中, 练习侧重于教导学生如何区分和正确使用不同的词类, 因为在这方面区别较大, 对大多数学生来说, 加强这方面的训练是必不可少的。

词类练习的形式多样, 有的练习给学生一对单词, 像 **anger** 和 **angry**, 要求学生写出它们各自的词性。另一种练习是从课文故事中选出若干单词, 要求学生用这单词的另一种词性填空。还有些练习是让学生仔细阅读课文中某个段落, 然后找出哪些是动词、形容词、介词等。

这些练习对学生来说是十分宝贵的, 然而在一般的英语学习班或会话班中, 这类技能都有所忽视, 但对中国学生来说, 懂得区别和运用英语的不同词类是提高英语水准的基础。

#### 写作练习:

这套书为学生设计了两种写作练习, 但只在 B 级和 C 级读物中出现。其中一种要求学生看图造句, 学生要根据故事内容, 用一句话说明图中什么地方有误。这种练习引导学生按照课文内容造句, 但又不是简单的抄录课文的句子, 此外它也提供机会让学生练习使用否定句, 例如: “The boy is not in the right place.”

第二种写作练习要求学生为答案写问句。例如给学生提供的答案是 “To lose weight. (Why?)”, 要求学生写的问句是 “Why did Mrs. Tan go on a diet?” 这类练习训练学生如何正确地提问, 以及如何使用 Why, Where, Who, How, What 等疑问词。

用法:

此项目每课课文后都有,它针对中国学生的特殊需要深入讲解课文中一些重点词汇、词组和句型的用法,并配有练习。

例如,英语中一词多义的情况很常见,像“used to”和“be used to”表示两种完全不同的意思,在“用法”中便会清晰地讲解这两种不同的用法,后面还附习题,让学生能学以致用。

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## **SHORT STORIES FOR COMPREHENSION A1**

**妙语短篇 A1** (英汉双语简体字版)

© Longman Asia Limited 1992

English-Chinese (in simplified characters) edition © Longman Asia Limited and  
Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press 1995

This simplified Chinese characters edition first published  
in 1995 jointly by Longman Asia Limited and Shanghai  
Foreign Language Education Press

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prior written permission of the Publishers.

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上海外语教育出版社 联合出版  
朗文出版亚洲有限公司

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## 1. A Difficult Question

Four girls went to school every day by taxi.

One day one of the girls said, "There's a test this morning. Let's get to school late. Then we won't have to take the test."

"What can we tell the teacher?" one of the girls said. "He'll be angry. We'll need a good **excuse**."

The girls thought for **several moments**, then one of them said, "Let's tell him that our taxi had a **flat tire**."



"That's a good idea," the other girls said. "We'll tell him that." They **arrived** at school an hour later. The test was finished.

"Why are you late?" the teacher asked. "You **missed** the test."

"Our taxi had a flat tire," one of the girls said.

The teacher thought for a moment, then he said, "Sit down, one of you in each corner of the room."

The four girls did this.

Then the teacher said, "Write on a piece of paper the answer to this question: Which tire was flat?"

### New Words and Expressions

excuse / ɪk'skju:s / *n.* 借口; 理由

several / 'sevərəl / *adj.* 几个的 (至少 3 个)

moment / 'məʊmənt / *n.* 片刻; 时刻

flat / **flæt** / *adj.* 平的  
tire / **taɪə(r)** / *n.* 轮胎 (英式拼法为 **tyre**)  
flat tire 轮胎漏气  
arrive / **ə'raɪv** / *v.* 到达  
miss / **mis** / *v.* 错过; 失却

## EXERCISE I

1. *Choose the best answer a, b, c or d, to these questions about the story.*

在 a、b、c、d 中选出一个最适合本故事的答案。

- A. How did the girls go to school every day?  
(a) by bus  
(b) by taxi  
(c) by train  
(d) they walked
- B. Why did the girls want to be late for school?  
(a) They did not like school.  
(b) They wanted to go shopping.  
(c) They had not done their homework.  
(d) They did not want to take a test.
- C. What was the girls' excuse for being late?  
(a) They got up late.  
(b) They could not get a taxi.  
(c) Their taxi had a flat tire.  
(d) They forgot the time.

D. Why couldn't the girls answer correctly the teacher's question?

- (a) They couldn't remember which tire was flat.
- (b) There wasn't a flat tire.
- (c) They each gave a different answer.
- (d) All four tires were flat.

2. Complete the sentences (a) to (d) with phrases from (e) to (h).

用 (e) 至 (h) 完成 (a) 至 (d) 的不完整句子。

- |                                 |   |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
| (a) The girls did not want      | • | • | (e) which of the taxi's tires was flat.         |
| (b) The girls arrived at school | • | • | (f) an hour after the test finished.            |
| (c) "Our taxi was late because  | • | • | (g) it has a flat tire," one of the girls said. |
| (d) The teacher asked them      | • | • | (h) to take a test.                             |

3. Complete the following sentences about the story by putting in the missing words.

在下列有关本故事的句子的空白处填上适当的词。

- (a) Four girls \_\_\_\_\_ to school every day by taxi.
- (b) They did not want to \_\_\_\_\_ a test so they arrived at school an hour late.
- (c) They \_\_\_\_\_ the teacher their taxi had a flat tire.
- (d) He did not \_\_\_\_\_ them and asked them which tire was flat.
- (e) They could not \_\_\_\_\_ this question.

4. Find words in the story that are opposite in meaning to the following.

在故事中找到与下列词义相反的词。

- (a) early \_\_\_\_\_ (c) started \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) pleased \_\_\_\_\_ (d) bad \_\_\_\_\_

5. Find words in the story that can be made from the letters in these words.

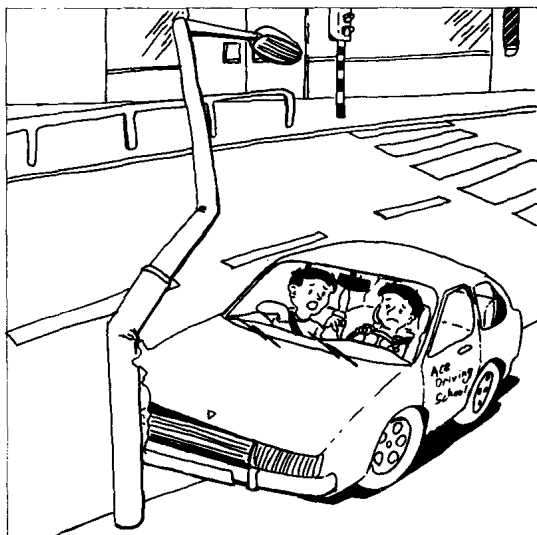
重新排列每组字母，使之成为故事中的一个词。

- (a) tlea \_\_\_\_\_ (c) teka \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) swa \_\_\_\_\_ (d) era \_\_\_\_\_

6. Choose the best statement for the following cartoon.

为下图找出最适当的说明。

- (a) Will I fail my test if I do that?  
(b) I thought you said, "Turn left."  
(c) That's the fifth time I've done that this week.



*Usage* 用法说明

## Excuse

在故事里，四个女孩找到了一个借口 (**excuse**)。单词 **excuse** 有以下两种用法：

### 1. Excuse (v.)

用在 “excuse me” (对不起) 中，“s” 发音为 /z/。

如：

Please **excuse** me, I have to go to the bathroom.

**Excuse** me, could you tell me the time?

### 2. Excuse (n.)

作“借口；理由”解。Excuse 中 “s” 发音为 /s/。如：

Do you have a good **excuse** for being late?

Every day she thinks a new **excuse** to tell her teacher.

## EXERCISE II

*Write which **excuse** is in these sentences, a verb (v.) or a noun (n.).*

下列句子中的 **excuse** 是动词还是名词？请用 v. (动词) 或 n. (名词) 标示。

- (a) She has a new **excuse** every day. \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) That's the strangest **excuse** I've ever heard. \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Please **excuse** my brother, he is not very polite. \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) **Excuse** me for being so late. \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. The Hole in the Ground

There was once a farmer who lived near a road.

It was not a busy road, but from time to time, cars passed the farm.

Near the farm gate, there was a large **hole** in the road.

This hole was always full of water, and the drivers of the cars could not see how **deep** the hole was. They thought it was **probably shallow**.

Then when they drove into the hole, they could not drive out because it was so deep.

The farmer did not **spend** much time working on his farm. He spent most of it watching the hole.

When a car drove into it, he pulled the car out with his **tractor** and **charged** the driver a lot of money for doing this.

One day, the driver of a car said to him, "You must make a lot of money pulling cars out of this hole night and day."

"Oh, no," the farmer said. "I don't pull cars out of the hole at night. At night I **fill** the hole with water."

### New Words and Expressions

hole / **həʊl** / *n.* 洞; 坑

deep / **di:p** / *adj.* 深的

probably / **'prɒbəbli** / *ad.* 很可能, 大概

shallow / **'ʃæləʊ** / *adj.* 浅的

spend / **spend** / (**spent** / **spent**) *v.* 用 (钱), 花 (时间) 等

tractor / **'træktə** / *n.* 拖拉机

charge / **tʃɑ:dʒ** / *v.* 收费

fill / **fil** / *v.* 填

## EXERCISE I

1. *Choose the best answer a, b, c or d, to these questions about the story.*

在 a、b、c、d 中选出一个最适合本故事的答案。

- A. Where did the farmer live?
- (a) near a road
  - (b) in a hole in the road
  - (c) in a large car
  - (d) under a tractor
- B. Many cars went into the hole because the drivers
- (a) were going too fast to stop.
  - (b) did not see the hole.
  - (c) did not know the hole was very deep.
  - (d) liked driving through water.
- C. What did the farmer do all day?
- (a) pulled cars out of the hole in the road
  - (b) filled the hole with water
  - (c) laughed at the drivers of the cars
  - (d) worked on his farm
- D. How did the farmer make money?
- (a) from growing things
  - (b) from selling water
  - (c) from pulling cars out of the hole
  - (d) from filling the hole with water



2. Complete the sentences (a) to (d) with phrases from (e) to (h).

用 (e) 至 (h) 完成 (a) 至 (d) 的不完整句子。

- |  |   |                                      |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| (a) The road was not busy but                | • | • (e) that was always full of water. |
| (b) There was a hole in the road             | • | • (f) pulling them out of the hole.  |
| (c) Many drivers drove into the hole because | • | • (g) cars passed from time to time. |
| (d) The farmer charged people for            | • | • (h) they did not know it was deep. |

3. Find words in the story that are opposite in meaning to the following.

在故事中找出下列词的反义词。

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| (a) far _____   | (c) shallow _____  |
| (b) never _____ | (d) a little _____ |

4. Complete the following sentences about the story by putting in the missing words.

在下列有关本故事的句子的空白处填上所缺的词。

- (a) There was a hole \_\_\_\_\_ a road near a farm.
- (b) This hole was always \_\_\_\_\_ of water.
- (c) Many cars drove into \_\_\_\_\_ hole.
- (d) A farmer charged the \_\_\_\_\_ to pull them out of the hole with his tractor.
- (e) At night he \_\_\_\_\_ the hole with water.