

英语幽默精编

The Finest Collection of English Humour

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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,是英语学习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,幽默是成功的惟一途径。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,怡悦心境,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四种方式。

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.”

来访者敲门是因为门上没有门铃(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-year-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,以为他父母亲点的是中份,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. 但他的话弦外有音,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,既适用于课堂教学,

又有助于读者提高学习英语的兴趣和应用英语的能力。对故事中重复率较低的词汇,反复注释。

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的感谢。参加本书编写的人员有马洵、马琳、刘哲、罗建奇、张春晓、杜毅、张佩伟、陈琛、翟文杨、李霞、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

2001 年 12 月

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