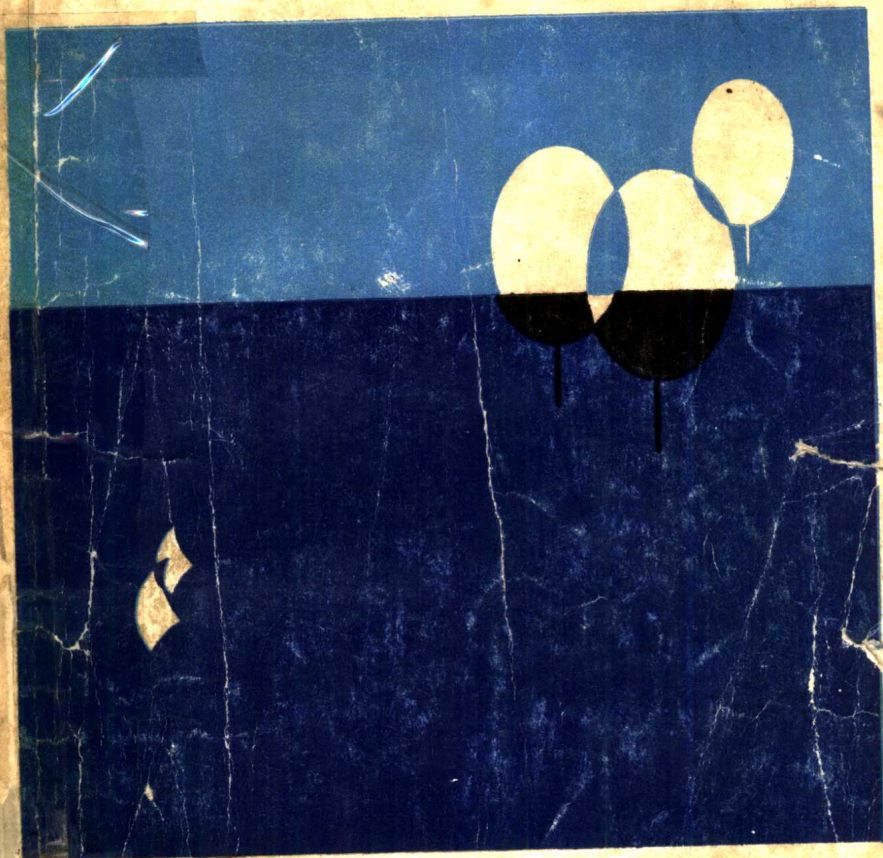


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知识小品

编著

唐金龙



上海外语教育出版社

中 级 英 语 读 物

知 识 小 品

Increasing Your Knowledge

唐金龙 编注

吴上元 审校

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前 言

《知识小品》是一本中级英语读物，适合大中学生课外阅读，也可供广大英语爱好者作为自学读物。

为了提高学习的兴趣和效果，编者力求将人们喜闻乐道的实际知识和语言学习融合一起，编成是书。其内容包括历史典故、名人轶事、科学新闻、世界风貌和生活常识等。读者通过自学，既可增进知识，又能扩大词汇量，从而提高英语阅读能力。

全书共有短文 62 篇，均选自原版知识读物、国外近期报刊和电台录音。在编写及摘选过程中，编者尽量保持原作的文句及文体，使读者接触不同作者的风格并了解现代英语的趋势。

针对自学者的需要，每篇文章都有注释和汉语译文，并有复述问题让读者练习写作或口头问答。为了便于读者自我检测以巩固学习效果，每课课文均配有自学测试题，书末附参考答案以资查对。

本书承吴上元同志仔细审校，张季馨同志翻译部分课文，沈勇同志绘制插图，特致谢忱。

编 者

1987年6月

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1. A Laugh a Day

It's hard to be nervous when you are laughing. Once a customer complained, "There's a fly in my soup." The waiter replied, "Please — not so loud ! Soon everybody will want one !" A great way to play down a problem is to joke about it.

Abraham Lincoln was not a very good-looking man. Instead of hiding his face and feeling miserable, however, Lincoln joked about his appearance. "I remind myself of a very ugly man who met an old woman one day," Lincoln used to say in public speeches. " 'Oh, but you're ugly !' the woman said. 'I know I'm ugly, ma'am,' replied the man, 'but there's nothing I can do about it.' 'Well,' replied the old woman, 'You might stay home so people wouldn't have to look at you !' " Lincoln's story made people laugh. It also made them like him. A sense of humor can turn something bad into something good.

Norman Cousins, a writer and editor, claims that laughter saved his life. In 1964, Cousins had a painful spinal disease. Doctors said his chances of surviving

were one in 500. Cousins decided to cure himself by reading humorous books and watching funny movies. After laughing, he could sleep painlessly for two hours at a time. And, within a few years, he did recover completely.

Through the study of gelotology, the science of laughter, scientists have proved: A laugh a day might help keep the doctor away.

QUESTIONS TO THE TEXT

1. Did everybody want a fly in his soup? Why did the waiter joke about it?
2. When people laughed at Lincoln's story, what did they think of him?
3. What disease was Norman Cousins suffering from?
4. How did Cousins cure his painful disease?
5. What might happen if a person laughs heartily once a day?

NEW WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. nervous ['nə:vəs] <i>adj.</i> | 回答 |
| 紧张的, 神经的 | 6. play down 降低, 缩小 |
| 2. customer ['kʌstəmə] <i>n.</i> | 7. problem ['prɒbləm] <i>n.</i> |
| 顾客 | 问题 |
| 3. complain [kəm'pleɪn] <i>vt.</i> | 8. miserable ['mɪzərəbl] <i>adj.</i> |
| & <i>vi.</i> 抱怨, 申诉 | 痛苦的 |
| 4. soup [su:p] <i>n.</i> 汤 | |
| 5. reply [rɪp'lai] <i>vt. vi. & n.</i> | |

9. appearance [ə'piərəns] *n.*
外貌, 出现
10. remind [ri'maɪnd] *vt.* 提
醒, 回想起
- (11). ma'am [mæm] *n.* 女士,
夫人 (madam 的缩略)
12. sense [sens] *n.* 感觉, 意
识
13. Norman Cousins
['nɔ:mən; 'kʌznz] *n.* 诺曼·
卡曾斯(人名)
14. editor ['editə] *n.* 编辑
15. claim [kleɪm] *vt.* 声称,

Madam
ma'am
Mrs.
mistress

- 自称
16. laughter ['lɑ:ftə] *n.*
笑, 笑声
- (17). spinal ['spainl] *adj.* 脊
骨的 (spine (n))
18. survive [sə'vaɪv] *vt. & vi.*
幸存
19. decide [di'saɪd] *vt. & vi.*
决定
20. recover [ri'kʌvə] *vt. & vi.*
恢复, 痊愈
- (21). gelotology [dʒelə'tɒlədʒi]
n. 笑学(研究笑的科学)

NOTES TO THE TEXT

1. ... Lincoln *used to* say in public speeches. 林肯在公开演说中常这样说。
used to 过去惯常。
2. You *might* stay home so people *wouldn't* have to look at you! 你可以呆在家里使人们不必看你的容貌!
might 和 *wouldn't* 都是虚拟语气, 显得较委婉。
so = *so that*; 为的是, 使得。引导目的状语从句。
3. And, within a few years, he *did* recover completely. 不到数年他果然完全痊愈了。
助动词 *do* 用来加强陈述句和祈使句的语气。例如:
He *does* speak well. 他真的讲得挺好。
Please! Do come and join us. 请务必来参加。

4. A laugh a day *might help keep* the doctor away.

每天笑一笑，医生不必找。（可能帮助你不必找医生）
曾经有人说：An apple a day may keep the doctor away. 每天一只苹果，不必请教医生。

might 表示也许，可能。与 may 无时间差别，但 might 的可能性比 may 更弱。

keep 是不定式，用于 help 之后可以不带 to。

TEST 1

- I. Match the following words and terms that are most closely related.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. reply | a. cause to remember |
| 2. miserable | b. continue to live |
| 3. remind | c. become well |
| 4. survive | d. answer |
| 5. recover | e. very unhappy |
| | f. may be missed out |

- II. Choose the best answer.

6. This article as a whole is about
- Lincoln and an old woman.
 - laughter and spinal disease.
 - a fly in soup.
 - benefits of laughter.
7. While not stated in the article, you can tell that
- humor is a good way to health and success.
 - laughter is better than a doctor.
 - Lincoln often stayed home so people didn't

look at him.

8. The word *one* in the first paragraph, the waiter's reply, refers to
 - a. soup.
 - b. waiter.
 - c. fly.
9. Norman Cousins later worked in a hospital.
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.
 - c. Does not say.
10. Which one of these sentences is not true?
 - a. Keeping your sense of humor may bring you long life and success.
 - b. Norman Cousins believed in the power of laughter.
 - c. Laughter gives every organ in your body a healthy workout.
 - d. Lincoln's ugliness made people laugh and like him.

1. 每天笑一笑

当你发笑的时候，就不会感到紧张。有一次，一位顾客抱怨说：“我的汤里有一只苍蝇。”服务员却回答说：“请别这么大声嚷！马上每位顾客都想要一只的！”用开玩笑的方式把问题缩小是一种极好的办法。

亚伯拉罕·林肯是一个外貌不扬的人。然而，他并不把脸藏起来或感到痛苦，却笑谈他自己的外貌。林肯常在公众面前说：“我想起一个丑男人有一天遇到一个老妇人。老妇人说：‘哦！你这么难看！’这个人回答说：‘我知道我长得丑。可是，太太，我无计可施！’。那妇人说：‘你可以呆在家里，这样人们就不必看你的相貌了。’”林肯的故事使得人们发笑，也使得人们更喜欢他。幽默能使某些坏事变成好事。

作家兼编辑的诺曼·卡曾斯声称，笑拯救了他的生命。1964年卡曾斯得了痛苦的脊骨病。医生说，他幸存的可能性只是 1:500。卡曾斯决定以阅读幽默书籍、观看滑稽电影来治疗他的疾病。在大笑以后，他能够毫无痛苦地一次酣睡两个小时。不出数年，他真的痊愈了。

通过笑学的研究，科学家们证明：每天笑一笑，医生不必找！

2. Saint Valentine's Day

情人节

Several different stories are told about the origin of Saint Valentine's Day. One legend dates as far back as the days of the Roman Empire. According to the story, Claudius, the Emperor of Rome, wanted to increase the size of his army. He knew that it would be easier to get young men who were not married to join. Therefore he made a rule that no young man could marry until he had served a certain number of years in the army.

A priest named Valentine broke the rule and secretly married a great many young people. Finally, Claudius found out about Valentine and put the priest in prison, where he remained until his death on February 14.

After his death, Valentine was made a saint, and the day of his death was named Saint Valentine's Day. It became the custom for lovers to send each other messages on this day. Now Saint Valentine's Day is a time for people to send one another greetings of many kinds.

QUESTIONS TO THE TEXT

1. What date is Saint Valentine's Day?