



Humorous Stories

幽默故事选

成春波 译注

河北人民出版社

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前 言

这本《幽默故事选》选材于英、美及苏联的一些英文出版物，内容幽默有趣，文字浅显易懂。它既可以作为英语初学者的简易读物，又可以供具有一定英语水平的读者在工作之余阅读、欣赏。读者还可以从某些篇内悟出几分哲理。

为了方便初学者阅读和理解，每篇后面都附有注释和译文。

由于本人经验不足，水平有限，书内不当之处，望读者不吝指正。

译注者

1982年3月

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1. SELLING EGGS

One Friday a farmer's wife went to town as usual¹ to sell her butter² and eggs. "What are you giving for a dozen of³ eggs to-day?" she asked the grocer.⁴ "Sixpence⁵," was the short reply.

"Sixpence a dozen! That is a very small price indeed!"

"Yes, but we grocers had a conference⁶ yesterday, and we decided that we could not give more than sixpence for the eggs."

The farmer's wife shook her head very sadly but accepted⁷ the price and went away.

Next Friday the farmer's wife came to town as usual. When the grocer looked at the eggs, he said, "Your eggs are very small this week."

"Well⁸," she said, "our hens had a conference yesterday, and they decided that sixpence is such a small price that⁹ they must not try so hard to lay large eggs¹⁰ for it."

注释:

1. as usual 照例 2. butter ['bʌtə] n. 奶油 3. a dozen ['dʌzn] of 一打 (十二个) 4. grocer ['grəʊsə] n.

食品商 5. sixpence n. (英国旧时的) 六便士 6. conference ['kɒnfərəns] n. 协商会议 7. accept [ək'sept] v. 接受
8. well int. (用于重新开始说话时) 喔, 噢 9. such...that... 如此……以致……
10. lay eggs 下蛋

译文:

卖 鸡 蛋

有一个星期五, 一位农妇照例进城卖奶油和鸡蛋。她问食品店老板: “今天一打鸡蛋你们给多少钱?” 老板简单地回答说: “六便士。”

“一打才给六便士! 这价真是太低了!”

“是啊, 不过我们食品商昨天开了个会, 决定一打鸡蛋的价格不能高于六便士。”

农妇很难过地摇摇头, 但只好卖掉, 走了。

下个星期五, 这个农妇又照例进城来了。老板看了看鸡蛋, 说: “这个星期你的鸡蛋太小了。”

“是啊,” 她说, “我们的母鸡昨天开了个会, 它们作出决定, 因为六便士实在太少, 所以不能使劲下大蛋了。”

2. HE STUCK TO¹ THE TRUTH²

“Mother,” asked Johnny after his birthday party³:
“may I have a piece of cake, only a small piece,
please?”

"No," replied his mother, "You've had quite enough."

"Well, may I sleep with a bit under my pillow?" asked the boy.

"Very well, here you are⁵, and remember to keep it under your pillow. Now run along to bed."

When she came to Johnny's room some time later, she saw Johnny sleeping peacefully⁶ with the pillow over his stomach⁷.

注释:

1. stick (stuck, stuck) to 坚持 2. truth [tru:θ] *n.* 真理, 实话
3. birthday party 生日宴会 4. pillow ['piləu] *n.* 枕头 5. here you are 给你
6. peacefully ['pi:sfuli] *adv.* 安详地
7. stomach ['stʌmək] *n.* 胃

译文:

坚持说实话

"妈妈,"过生日那天请完客以后,约翰尼问道,"我可以再吃块蛋糕吗?就一小块,给我吧。"

"不行,"母亲答道,"你吃得够多了。"

"那么睡觉时可以给我一小块放在枕头底下吗?"孩子问道。

"好吧,给你,快去睡觉吧。"

过了一会儿,她去约翰尼的房间,看见约翰尼把枕头放在肚子上,睡得正香呢!

3. ANTARCTIC¹ EXPLORER²

BOY OF SIX: Daddy³, when I grow up I want to be an
Antarctic Explorer.

FATHER: That's fine, Bill.

BOY: But I want to go into training⁴ at once.

FATHER: How so?

BOY: Well, I want a dollar a day for ice-cream⁵ so
I'll get used to⁶ the cold.

注释:

1. antarctic ['æntɑːktɪk] a. 南极的 2. explorer [ɪks'plɔːrə]
n. 探险者 3. daddy = dad 爸爸 (儿语) 4. to go into
training 开始锻炼 to go into 投入, 进入……状态 5. ice
-cream n. 冰淇淋 6. to get used to 习惯于(to 后接名词)

译文:

南 极 探 险 家

六岁小孩: 爸爸, 我长大了想当南极探险家。

父 亲: 好啊, 比尔。

孩 子: 可是我想马上就开始锻炼。

父 亲: 怎么锻炼呢?

孩 子: 哦, 我想一天要一块钱买冰淇淋, 这样我就对寒冷的气候习惯了。

4. THE FIRST RAY

"What time do you get up in summer?"

"As soon as² the first ray of the sun comes into my window"

"Isn't that rather early?"

"No, my room faces³ west."

注释:

1. ray *n.* 光线, 射线 2. as soon as —……就 3. face *v.* 面对, 朝

译文:

第一束阳光

"在夏天, 你什么时候起床?"

"就在第一束阳光射进我的窗户的时候。"

"难道那不有点儿太早吗?"

"不, 我的房间是朝西的。"

5. ANN'S AGE

TEACHER: How old are you, Ann?

ANN: Fifteen.

TEACHER: But you were only seven last year, and now you are eight years old.

ANN: Well, seven last year and eight this year make fifteen.

注释:

1. make v. 得, 等于

译文:

安的年龄

老师: 安, 你多大了?

安: 十五岁了。

老师: 可是去年你刚七岁, 今年应该八岁呀!

安: 对呀, 去年七岁加今年八岁等于十五岁呀!

6. THE PEN

BILL: Mary, give me your pen, please.

MARY: Why don't you want to write with your own pen?

BILL: Because it always makes so many mistakes.

译文:

钢笔

比尔: 玛丽, 请把你的钢笔借给我。

玛丽: 你怎么不用自己的钢笔写呢?

比尔：因为它老是出那么多错。

7. THE NEW TEACHER

George comes from school on the first of September.

“George, how did you like¹ your new teacher?”
asks his mother.

“I didn't like her, Mother, because first she said that three and three were six and then she said that two and four were six too...”

注释：

1. How do (did) you like...? 你觉得……怎么样？

译文：

新 老 师

九月一日，乔治从学校回来。

“乔治，你觉得你们的新老师怎么样？”他母亲问道。

“不怎么样，妈妈，因为她先说三加三等于六，后来又
说二加四也等于六……。”