

星火 **5元** 英语精粹文丛

英语 幽默 精粹



张帆 编著

W 世界图书出版公司



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丛书致读者

那天陪朋友逛“科技市场”，感觉到从未有过的累。

得跟您说明一下。这个科技市场是山东济南靠近山大南院的一个计算机商场。一座三层楼里面，汇集三百多家计算机商，经销整机，硬软件，耗材，配套设施，当然还有节目光盘。

说到那些节目光盘，我困惑得头大。都是些什么呀。我奶奶——愿她在地下安息——如果还活着，逢此盛世，肯定乐得再活几十年。七仙女，白娘子，老包，目连，说书的瞎子，算命的先生，都在。麻将和桥牌可能让她皱眉，三国游戏可能玩不来了；可是，金庸和琼瑶，韦小宝和小燕子，她一定喜闻乐见。

朋友曾怜悯我至今还用着十几年前的 286 和 WPS：“呵，很多享受你错过了。”But dear Grandmother，要是“享受”指的是这些，俺宁可回俺村去看俺的蚂蚁上树。

临出门，上高中的儿子对我说：“要是多媒体上能看欧几里德和牛顿讲数学，那咱就买一台。”

我问了。没那节目。有些商家连这些名字都没听说过。“有孩子看的科技节目吗？”“有。”拿过一张盘，套封上列着“地球奥秘”，“人体奥秘”，什么什么，不用看就知道，小学三年级以下的孩子可能感兴趣。

那天是个“秋老虎”，预报说 33 度。可是，包围在那些媒体里面，我觉得怎么也有 34 度。除了一身一身的汗，没感到别的享受，也没看到什么科技。

所以，让我选择，还是看书，白纸黑字的书。最好是五块钱一本的，可看可不看的闲书（注意，这是广告）。花明柳媚时，梧桐秋雨时，长夏无聊时，没有功课也没有约会；当此时也，手执一卷，卧榻上，树荫里，安安静静，读上一叶两叶，三叶五叶，是一种心境，是一种活法儿——一种在闹市尘嚣电化声光威凌之下离我们越来越远的活法儿。

绍明

一九九九年九月九日

前 言

幽默是生活中不可缺少的调味品。因为有它,枯燥单调的日子也可以变得多姿多彩;因为有它,烦闷沉郁的心情也可变成粲然一笑。人类智慧的火花在这里不时闪现,人生深奥的哲理在轻松中任您品味。翻开这本幽默故事,您便会乐在其中。

本书由编者从各种英美畅销杂志及因特网上汇集的幽默小品精选而成,共分九个部分,分别从不同侧面表现了生活和工作中的诙谐,读后让人忍俊不禁。阅读对象为不同年龄、不同程度的所有英语爱好者。相信这本小书在博得您轻松一笑的同时,还会使您对其折射出的异国文化与风土人情有所了解。

编者

1999年9月

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Part 1

Women and Men



1

Two men were talking at the office rest room. One was telling the other about a fight he'd had with his wife. "In the end," he said, "I had her begging on her knees."

"What did she say?" asked the coworker.

"She told me to come out from under the bed."

2

A highway patrol officer stopped a speeding motorist. "Don't you know what the blinking lights and siren mean?" he demanded.

"Yes, sir," replied the driver.

"Then why didn't you pull over immediately?"

"I would have, officer," the man said. "But last month my wife ran off with a policeman, and I was afraid you were bringing her back."

★ Notes

1. speeding: 超速行驶
2. blinking light: 闪光警灯
3. siren: 汽笛, 警报器
4. pull over: 开到路边

3

An 85-year-old widow went on a blind date with a 90-year-old man. When she returned to her daughter's house later that night, she seemed upset. "What happened, Mother?" the daughter asked.

"I had to slap his face three times!"

“You mean he got fresh?”

“No,” she answered. “I thought he was dead!”

★ Notes

get fresh:〈美俚〉无礼,放肆(尤指对异性)

4

Kavin: “My wife and I argue a lot. She’s very touchy—the least little thing sets her off.”

Christopher: “You’re lucky. Mine is a self-starter.”

★ Notes

1. touchy: 易起火的, 此处意为暴躁的。
2. self-starter: 电动式启动装置, 喻为无缘无故便发脾气的人。

5

During a baseball game, a woman kept shouting threats at the umpire. No matter what happened on the field, she continually yelled, “Kill the umpire!” This went on for an hour. “Lady,” another fan called out, “the umpire hasn’t done anything wrong.”

“He’s my husband,” she replied. “Last night he came home with lipstick on his collar. Kill the umpire!”

★ Notes

1. umpire: 裁判员
2. lipstick: 〈美〉口红, 唇膏

6

“It was horrible,” the man was telling his psychiatrist. “While I

was in Japan on business, I wired my wife that I'd be back a day early. I rushed home from the airport and found her alone with my best friend. How could she do this to me?"

"Well," answered the shrink, "maybe she didn't get your telegram!"

★ Notes

1. psychiatrist: 精神病医师
2. shrink: 〈美俚〉精神病学家



A couple had been married for 50 years. "Things have really changed," she said. "You used to sit very close to me."

"Well, I can remedy that," he said, moving next to her on the couch.

"How's that?" he asked as he gave her a hug.

"Do you remember you used to nudge my neck and nibble on my ear lobes?" He jumped to his feet and left the room. "Where are you going?"

"I'll be right back," he said, "I've got to get my teeth!"

★ Notes

1. remedy: 补救
2. hug: 拥抱
3. nudge: 用肘轻推
4. nibble: 一点一点地咬
5. lobe: 圆形突出部(尤指耳垂)



The young wife found her husband at their baby's crib, a mixture

of emotions spreading over his face. She slipped her arms around him. "A penny for your thoughts," she said, her eyes glistening.

"For the life of me," he replied. "I can't see how anybody can make a crib like this for \$ 84.97."

★ Notes

1. crib: 婴儿床
2. glisten: 闪光



At 2 A. M., Mrs. Smith was convinced that she had heard a prowler in the living room. "Tiptoe downstairs," she told her husband. "Don't turn on the lights. Sneak up on him before he knows what's happening."

Dutifully Mr. Smith put on his robe. Just as he reached the bedroom door, his wife added, "And when you come back, bring me a glass of milk."

★ Notes

1. prowler: 小偷
2. tiptoe: 踮着脚走
3. sneak: 偷偷地做



When the couple arrived in Las Vegas, the husband became fascinated by the plush casino and started betting on all the attractions. After four days, they had just two dollars left.

"Let me go to the casino alone," the man told his wife. "I've got a feeling that I'll be lucky today."

Once downstairs, he went to the roulette table and put his last two

dollars on No. 14, red. His number won. He continued betting and winning. Feeling that his luck was about to change, he picked up his chips and walked toward the cashier. Just before he reached him, he felt one final urge to bet. He went back to the roulette table and put everything on No. 10, black. The wheel spun round and round, and finally stopped on No. 12, red. Heartbroken, the fellow returned to his room.

"Well," his wife asked anxiously, "how did you make out?"

"I lost two dollars."

★ Notes

1. Las Vegas: 拉斯维加斯, 美国著名赌城。
2. plush: 豪华的, 舒服的
3. cassino: 一种纸牌戏(二至四人玩)
4. cashier: 出纳员
5. roulette: 轮盘赌
6. spin: spun 的过去式和过去分词, 意为旋转。
7. chip: 筹码



My friend's father was proud of his family of six children. He frequently referred to his wife as "Mother of Six", much to her annoyance. Finally, she cured him of his habit. At the end of a party, he called out loud enough for everyone to hear, "Ready to go, Mother of Six?"

"Any time you are," she replied, "Father of Four."

★ Notes

1. refer to sb. as... 以...的名称提到...
2. annoyance: 烦恼
3. cure: 治愈

My husband and I were invited to an all-you-can-get buffet at a new restaurant. After we got our meals, the owner came over and asked, "How's everything?"

"Fine," replied my husband. "I enjoy buffets—I eat until my ankles hurt." "Your ankles hurt?" queried the owner.

"Yes," said my husband. "My wife kicks me under the table when I've had enough."

★ Notes

1. buffet: 小卖部
2. ankle: 脚踝

As a young police officer, I pulled a car over for going through a red light. There was an elderly couple in the car, and as I approached I could hear the man being scolded for the way he drove. The vehicle and driver appeared to be legal, so I told the woman that if she would agree to watch her husband's driving habits in the future, I would not write a ticket.

Returning to my patrol car, I was surprised to find the man had followed me. "Please give me a ticket!" he begged. "What you're doing instead is cruel and unusual punishment."

★ Notes

1. scold: 责骂, 斥责
2. ticket: 〈口〉(给违反交通规则者等的)传票
3. patrol car: 巡逻车
4. punishment: 惩罚

Since my parents are as much in love today as when they were first married 40 years ago, it was no surprise to watch them glide romantically across the dance floor at my brother's wedding. I got misty-eyed as Dad steered Mom energetically around the ball-room, and it was particularly touching when he waved away anyone who attempted to cut in.

"Mom," I said during the band's first break, "it's great to see that Dad still worships the ground you walk on. He danced every dance with you!"

"Oh, no, dear," she stated matter-of-factly. "He just missed his fitness class today and was trying to sustain his target heart rate for 30 minutes."

★ Notes

1. glide: 滑行
2. steer: 引导
3. touching: 动人的
4. sustain: 维持, 持续
5. target: 目标

Walking down the street one day, I was approached by a panhandler who held out an empty cup and said, "Hi, beautiful. How about \$ 5?"

"I'm not beautiful and I don't have \$ 5," I replied.

"Well," he said, "you're not bad looking. How about \$ 2.50?"

★ Notes

panhandler: 〈美口〉(街头行乞的)乞丐

16

I came home from work one day to find my wife, Jolynn, cradling our six-month-old daughter and repeating, "Da-da, Da-da." How sweet, I thought to myself, for her to choose Daddy as our baby's first word.

Several weeks later, Jolynn and I were wakened by a small voice crying, "Da-da." Turning over to go back to sleep, my wife said, "She's calling you, dear."

★ Notes

cradle: 将...放在摇篮内

17

My husband retired, and for the first time in over 40 years I had to think about preparing a midday meal. Tired of it after several months, I said, "I married you for better or worse, but not for lunch."

"Fair enough. From now on I'll make my own," he replied.

A few weeks later he had to go downtown on business and invited me to join him afterward. "We could have lunch at that Japanese restaurant we both like," he suggested. I happily agreed.

At the restaurant the next day we were seated, and the waiter came to take our order. My husband looked up, a twinkle in his eyes. "Separate checks, please." He said.

★ Notes

1. twinkle: 闪烁, 发光
2. check: 饭馆的账单

The man told his doctor that he wasn't able to do all the things around the house that he used to do. When the examination was complete, he said, "Now, Doc, I can take it. Tell me in plain English what is wrong with me."

"Well, in plain English," the doctor replied, "you're just lazy."

"Okay," said the man. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife."

"It's 'husband'," said the doctor.

★ Notes

1. in plain English: 用日常英语的话说
2. medical term: 医学术语

A friend of mine went into work one day, very excited about her new birthday present: earrings that were big, round, working clocks! She proudly showed them to everyone. At lunchtime, she was alone in the office when a man entered and asked what time it was. A big grin spread across her face. She stepped close to the man, looked him in the eye and shook her head so he would notice her new timepieces. The man's eyes grew large, he stammered a thank-you and quickly left. My friend then saw her new earrings lying in the middle of her desk. She had taken them off when talking on the phone.

★ Notes

1. earring: 耳环
2. timepiece: 时钟
3. grin: 露齿而笑