

# English Reader Book 2

广播电视外语讲座课外读物

陈琳编



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人民教育出版社

广播电视外语听力练习

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## 致 读 者

广播电视英语讲座课外读物共分四册，分别配合广播电视英语讲座课本一至四册。

这四册读物是为广播电视英语讲座的听(观)众提供的课外阅读材料。通过阅读可以复习巩固讲座中学习的内容，并提高理解力。同时，每册课外读物，又为下一阶段的讲座教学“打下埋伏”，使参加学习者对下一阶段所要讲授的语法及词汇内容，先通过阅读得到一定的感性知识。本书也可供自学英语者及中、小学生阅读。

课外读物中的语法、句型及词汇内容，一般只要求理解，不要求在口、笔头上运用。业(课)余时间较多的讲座听(观)众或其他自学者，可以在阅读的基础上进行问答、复述、写大意或翻译(及回译)等口、笔头练习。

本读物的编写原则是，以简单的幽默小故事、谜语等开始，由浅入深，内容注重趣味性、实用性及知识性。自第二册起，将由根据原文改写的故事、短文等逐渐向浅易原文故事、小说或戏剧片断等过渡。各册中将包括一定比例的科普文章。

本册各篇编排，既按内容分类，又由浅入深。但不一定必须按先后顺序阅读，也可前后错落选读，以便在一段时间内接触到不同题材和体裁的文章。

为使读者能顺利而有兴趣地进行阅读，第一册中每篇后均附有词汇表。自第二册起，为使读者能逐渐培养查阅词典的习惯，将只在书末附字母序总词汇表；免去分篇词汇表，而代之以注释。总词汇表中各词的释义，以其在该篇中出现时

的词义为主。倘是转义，则一般也注出本义。

本册部分内容，取材自美、英出版物而予以改写，书名不一列举。

编 者

一九八〇年十二月

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## LITTLE JOKES

- Teacher:* Here is a map. Who can show us America? (Nick goes to the map and finds America on it.)
- Teacher:* Now, tell me, boys, who found America?
- Boys:* Nick.

*Teacher:* Jack, why don't you wash your face? I can see what you had for breakfast this morning.

*Little Boy:* What was it?

*Teacher:* Eggs.

*Little Boy:* You are wrong, sir, I had eggs yesterday morning.

*A:* Oh, Jack, I thought you were dead<sup>1</sup>.

*B:* What gave you that impression?

*A:* I heard a man speak well of you<sup>2</sup> this morning.

1. 此处用过去时态,表示“我还以为你死了呢!”

2. to speak well of someone 是“说某人的好话;道某人的好处”;相反,则是 to speak ill of someone.



*Wife:* Why did you tear the back part of that new book off?

*Surgeon husband*<sup>1</sup>: Excuse me, dear. I saw the word 'Appendix'<sup>2</sup> written on it, so I tore it off without thinking.

1. 当外科医生的丈夫。
2. appendix 有两个意思：一是“书的附录”，一是“阑尾（俗称盲肠）”。

*Teacher* (giving the last lecture of the term): The examination papers<sup>1</sup> are now in the hands of the printer. The exams will be next Monday. You should all prepare well for them. Now, are there any questions you want to ask?

*Student:* One question, professor, where does the printer live?

1. 试卷。

*Father:* You know, Tom, when Lincoln<sup>1</sup> was your age<sup>2</sup>, he was a very good pupil. In fact, he was the best pupil in his class.

**Tom:** Yes, Father, I know that. But when he was your age he was President of the United States.

1. Abraham Lincoln, 亚伯拉罕·林肯(1809—1865), 美国第十六任总统。
2. (他)是你的岁数的时候; (他)是你这么大的时候。

**Teacher:** What do we get from sheep?

**Boy:** Wool.

**Teacher:** And what do we make from wool?

**Boy:** I don't know.

**Teacher:** Well, what is your coat made of'?

**Boy:** My coat was made from father's old coat<sup>2</sup>.

1. 你的外衣是什么(材料)做的? 这里用的是 to be made of something.
2. 我的外衣是由爸爸的旧外衣改做的。这里用的是 to be made from something.

**Editor:** Did you write this poem yourself, young man?

**Young man:** Yes, every line of it.

**Editor:** Then I am glad to meet you, Mr Shakespeare. I thought you were dead long ago.

*Wife* (after a quarrel): I was a fool when I married you<sup>1</sup>.

*Husband*: Yes, you certainly were. But I thought you would improve<sup>2</sup>.

1. 妻子说此话的原意是：“我当时是个大傻瓜，竟跟你结了婚。”丈夫故意把这句话按字面理解为：“咱们结婚的时候，我是个傻子。”
2. 我原以为你会学得聪明些的；我本想你会改进的。

*A*: If the Dean doesn't take back what he said<sup>1</sup> to me this morning, I am going to leave college.

*B*: What did he say?

*A*: He told me to leave college.

1. to take back what one says: 收回说过的话，意即表示道歉。

*Papa*: Did you ask Mamma if<sup>1</sup> you could have that apple?

*Three-year-old boy* (eating the apple): Yes, I did.

*Papa*: Be careful now; I'll ask Mamma, and if she says you didn't ask her, I'll give you a good beating for telling a lie<sup>2</sup>.

*Boy*: Truly, Papa, I asked her. (a pause)

She said I couldn't have it.

1. if 在这里意为 whether (是否)。
2. 我就要为你说了谎而好好揍你一顿。

*Teacher:* Can you tell me anything about the great English writers of the 18th century?

*Student:* Yes, sir, they are all dead.

*Nurse:* Wake up!<sup>1</sup> Wake up!

*Patient:* What is the matter?

*Nurse:* It's time to take your sleeping pills.

1. 醒醒!

*Teacher:* What time do you get up in the summer holidays?

*Boy:* As soon as the first ray of the sun comes into my window.

*Teacher:* Isn't that rather early?

*Boy:* Well, my room faces west.

*Miner's son:* Why don't you light the fire? It's

so cold.

*Mother:* Because there's no coal.

*Son:* Why is there no coal?

*Mother:* Because your father is out of work<sup>1</sup>  
and we have no money to buy coal.

*Son:* Why is Father out of work?

*Mother:* Because there's too much coal.

1. out of work: 失业。

## TRY TO THINK IN ENGLISH

### Is the New Restaurant Good?

Mr. Smith was chatting with two friends, Mr. George and Mr. Low.

"There is a new restaurant in town, the Tiptop," said Mr. George. "I ate dinner there yesterday. It's very good."

But Mr. Low said, "I had dinner there on Thursday, and it's a very bad restaurant."

The two men looked at Mr. Smith.

"Let's go to the Tiptop for coffee," Mr. Smith said. "I'm going to learn about this new restaurant. We shall see if it's good or bad."

The three men left Mr. Smith's house and walked to the new restaurant. They sat at a table near the window. A waiter came and asked, "What do you want, gentlemen?"

"Coffee, please," said Mr. Smith.

"Coffee," said Mr. George.

"Coffee for me, too," answered Mr. Low.

The waiter brought three cups of coffee, three spoons, sugar and milk. Mr. Smith put sugar in his coffee. Mr. George put milk in his. Mr. Low said,

"I take sugar and milk."

Mr. Smith drank some coffee, and then he called the waiter. "This isn't good coffee," he said. "Bring me a new cup."

"I'm sorry, sir," the waiter answered. He took Mr. Smith's cup and went into the kitchen.

Soon the waiter came back. He put a cup of coffee on the table for Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith drank a little coffee. Then he said, "This is not a new cup of coffee! This is not a good restaurant! I'm not coming here again."

HOW DID MR. SMITH KNOW?

1. to learn about: 弄清一些情况。

## Footprints in the Garden

It was three o'clock one Wednesday afternoon. The rain had stopped, and Mr. Smith was looking out of the window. Suddenly the phone rang. Mr. Smith picked up the phone and heard the voice of Mrs. Scott. Mrs. Scott sounded very excited and asked Mr. Smith to come to her house right away. Mr. Smith got in his car, and twenty minutes later arrived at the Scott home.

Mrs. Scott met Mr. Smith at the door, and right away she began to talk.

"I came home at two forty-five," she said. "When I got home the front door was open, and I heard a noise in the house. I entered and saw a man in the living room. It was dark inside. At first I thought it was my husband, but he is in San Francisco this week. He's coming home tonight. This man was dressed like a clown<sup>1</sup>, and he had a large box under his arm. He turned round and saw me. Then he ran out the back door and ran through the garden. I ran after him and I almost caught him, but he reached his car, an old black Ford<sup>2</sup>, and drove away.

"I returned to the house to see if anything was missing, and found that a very expensive camera was gone. I borrowed the camera from a friend last week.



... I was robbed!"

Mr. Smith followed Mrs. Scott inside. He looked around the living room. It was a mess. The desk was open. There were a lot of papers on the floor. One chair was lying on its side<sup>3</sup>. Mr. Smith went to the back door — it was still open and a soft wind was blowing in. He asked Mrs. Scott, "Did you see the number of the car?"

"No," she answered. "I was too excited. When I reached the street I forgot everything. I just watched him drive away."

"Don't worry," Mr. Smith said to her. He went outside and saw a man's footprints in the soft garden; some flower were broken. That was all. He walked through the garden to the street, but of course the old black Ford was gone. He came back inside and asked, "Did you touch anything here?"

Mrs. Scott said, "No, as soon as the robber got away, I telephoned you. Then I sat in the living room and waited for you to arrive. I knew I shouldn't touch things."

Then Mr. Smith said, "Mrs. Scott, you told an interesting story<sup>4</sup>, but you were not robbed. There was no robber. I think you wanted to sell the camera and keep the money. I'm sorry, but I have to call the police now."