

主 编/玉 华 石绍云 张 亮

英语阅读菁华

The Collection of Reading Materials

幽默篇



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总 序

经过一段时间的充分酝酿和准备,《英语阅读菁华》丛书终于和大家见面了。这套丛书共有五册——幽默篇、童话篇、风土人情篇、人文历史篇和科普篇。该丛书的目的在于帮助读者通过大量的阅读提高其英语综合运用能力,特别是阅读和翻译能力。该丛书具有以下几个特点:

一、给读者提供一个较理想的、真实的语言环境。该丛书选文题材广泛、内容丰富,既反映了英语国家的历史传统和文化背景,又包括了当代科学技术的最新发展和应用前景。这样就给读者提供了一个和自己的生活、学习、工作和科学研究有密切关系的、比较真实的语言环境,使读者能够比较轻松自然地进行阅读,在吸收语言的同时也学习进行中外双向交流所必需的文化背景知识,从而增加读者的阅读兴趣,在不知不觉中提高自己应用语言的能力。

二、给读者提供既地道规范又生动活泼的当代英语。丛书取材于英语国家(特别是美国)当代有影响的报刊杂志、文学读物、科技报道及各种优秀教材。不仅有较正式的书面语体,还有非正式的口语语体。这样,读者接触到的是富有时代气息的、比较实用的语言形式,从而学到地道规范、恰当得体的当代英语,进而提高对英语的感悟能力、理解能力和表达能力。同时也可了解英语的最新发展趋势。

三、注释翔实、明晰,译文通顺达意。丛书对原文中的难点均做了翔实明确的注释。每篇文章都配有参考译文,译文力求忠实原文,朴实无华,以利于读者自学参考。这样不仅有助于提高阅读理解能力,而且通过对照译文,促进翻译能力的提高。

四、既具有针对性,又符合科学性和系统性原则。该丛书适合于大学和研究生阶段的学生以及具有同等水平的英语学习者的阅读需要。愿该丛书带您走进一个较理想的英语语言学习环境,为您开辟一个新的英语世界,帮助您成为既有科学知识,又有较强的英语交际能力的 21 世纪的新型人才。

总而言之,我们是要为英语学习者设计一个多彩多姿的英语

天地,通过大量的阅读和实践,帮助您发展兴趣,开拓视野,改进方法,提高信心。我们相信,这套丛书是您感受英语、学习英语、提高英语、实践英语的新世界。

本丛书在编写过程中,参阅了大量的书刊并选编了其中的一些文章。在此我们向这些文章的作者表示最衷心的感谢。李娜、李明、孙金友、夏青、王保江等同志在文章的录入和统计、资料的收集等方面做了大量繁琐、细致的工作,并为本书提出了许多宝贵的建议和设想。

由于水平有限,书中肯定会有不少难尽人意之处,我们恳请广大读者不吝赐教,以便我们再版时作进一步的修订,使其更加完美,走进更多读者的心田。

前 言

您想培养激发学习英语的学习兴趣吗？那么，请您走进《英语阅读菁华——幽默篇》。本书是《英语阅读菁华》的第一册，精选幽默故事 258 个。这些幽默故事均选自近几年来国内外出版的英文报刊杂志及书籍。内容新颖，语言优美、简洁、诙谐、地道，具有浓厚的生活气息，寓意深刻且诙谐幽默，耐人寻味。

作为一名从事大学英语教学多年的教师，常常在课堂上给我们的学生讲一些浅显易懂的英语幽默小故事，这些故事常常会令同学们捧腹大笑。这不仅活跃了课堂气氛，而且调动了同学们学习英语的兴趣。兴趣是最好的老师，我们旨在通过这些精选的幽默故事及笑话激发广大读者学习英语的热情。读者可以一早一晚，也可在茶余饭后读上几篇，日积月累，循序渐进，在不知不觉中取得进步。

为了便于读者自学，每篇幽默故事都对一些重点和难点部分增加注释，并附有参考译文。适合初、中级英语阶段的学习者，特别是在校的大学生，也可作为英语教师的教学参考用书。

本书的编者衷心地希望读者从这本书里得到乐趣、智慧和知识！



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原文

1. Missed^① Again

1 David joined the army when he was eighteen. And for several months he was taught how to be a good soldier. He did quite well in everything except shooting. One day he and his friends were practising their shooting and all of them did well except David. At last the officer said, "David! You are quite hopeless^②! Do not waste your bullets. Go behind that wall and shoot yourself."

2 David felt ashamed^③. He went behind the wall, and a few seconds later the officer and the other young soldiers heard the sound of a shot.

3 "Heavens!" the officer said. "Has that silly^④ man really shot himself?"

4 He ran behind the wall anxiously. But David was all right. "I'm sorry, sir," he said, "but I missed again."

2. Making Babies

1 A 3rd-grade girl came home from school. She was very happy, and her Mom noticed this. Mom asked, "What makes you so happy today?" The girl said, "Mom, we learned how to make babies in school today!"

2 Thinking that 3rd grade was a bit^① early for that, she asked her daughter to tell her how.

3 "It's easy, Mom — you just drop^② the 'y', and add 'ies'," the daughter said.

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1. ① miss *v.* 未击中 ② hopeless *a.* 没有希望的;令人绝望的
 ③ ashamed *a.* 感到羞耻;感到惭愧
 ④ silly *a.* 愚昧的;愚蠢的
2. ① a bit 一点点 ② drop *v.* 除掉



译文

1. 又没打中

1 大卫十八岁时入伍。在如何当个好兵的几个月训练中，他除了射击之外，其他项目的成绩都很好。一天，他和他的朋友们正在练射击，除大卫外，其他人练得都不错。最后，教官说道：“大卫！你没救了！别再浪费子弹了，到墙后去朝自己开一枪！”

2 大卫非常惭愧。他走到墙后。几秒种之后，教官和其他年轻士兵听到了一声枪响。

3 “天哪！”军官说道：“难道那傻瓜真的自杀了吗？”

4 他匆匆忙忙跑到了墙后，大卫一点儿事也没有。“我很惭愧，长官，”他说道：“我又没打中。”

2. 生孩子

1 一天，一位小学三年级的小女孩兴高采烈地从学校回到家中，她妈妈注意到她特别高兴，便问道：“今天你怎么这么高兴啊？”小女孩回答说：“妈妈，今天我们在学校里学习怎么生孩子。”

2 妈妈觉得这事儿对三年级的孩子来说，知道得未免太早，便问她都学了什么。

3 “这很简单，妈妈，你只要把‘y’去掉，加上‘ies’就行。”她回答道。