



双语美文欣赏系列

*Beautiful Writings
Appreciation*

诙谐篇

何一涛等 编译



上海科技教育出版社



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前 言

现代社会生活节奏越来越快,人们承受着沉重的工作和生活压力;学生背负着沉重的学习负担,学习没了乐趣,成了一项艰苦的任务,许多人因此失去了学生时代的快乐。

人们需要放松,需要释放压力。俗话说:“笑一笑,十年少。”笑能使人身心健康、浑身舒畅。笑也是生活中不可缺少的调料。没有笑声,生活变得索然无味;没有笑声,生活就不成其为生活。

为了让广大学生和英语爱好者在轻松、愉快的气氛中接触英语,扩大视野,增长知识,本书汇集了许许多多幽默、诙谐、有趣的轶闻、趣谈、故事、传说、笑话等,以英汉对照的形式呈现给大家。在翻译过程中,译者力求在保持原文风格的同时,传达出幽默、诙谐的效果。

本书旨在为读者提供既可浏览、欣赏,又能学习和借鉴的原汁原味的英语原文,使大家寓学于乐,事半功倍。全书共分五部分:第一部分为名人轶事;第二部分为起源史话;第三部分为古今趣闻;第四部分为动物趣谈;第五部分为笑话集锦。

全书英文摘自原版,语言纯正地道,文章长短适中,译文贴切传神,插图惟妙惟肖,具有很强的可读性。

能给大家的生活和学习带来快乐和轻松,并从中学到一些语言知识是本书的宗旨。希望广大读者的生活充满欢乐,充满笑声。

参加本书编写的有何一涛、陈青、张荃敏、梁鲁晋、李婉如等。由于译者水平有限,如有不当之处,敬请同行专家和广大读者批评指正。

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Anecdotes about Famous People

名人轶事



George Washington and the Horse

Once a neighbor stole one of Washington's horses. Washington went with a police officer to the neighbor's farm to get the horse, but the neighbor refused to give the horse up; he claimed that it was his horse.

Washington placed both of his hands over the eyes of the horse and said to the neighbor, "If this is your horse, then you must tell us in which eye he is blind."

"In the right eye." The neighbor said.

Washington took his hand from the right eye of the horse and showed the police officer that the horse was not blind in the right eye.

"Oh, I have made a mistake," said the neighbor. "He is blind in the left eye."

Washington then showed that the horse was not blind in the left eye either.

"I have made another mistake," said the neighbor.

"Yes," said the police officer, "and you have also proven that the horse does not belong to you. You must return it to Mr Washington."

乔治·华盛顿与马

一次,一个邻居偷了华盛顿的一匹马。华盛顿请来一位警官一起去邻居的农场索要那匹马,但邻居不愿还给他并声称那匹马是他的。

华盛顿将两只手盖住马的眼睛,然后对邻居说:“如果这是你的马,那你必须告诉我们马的哪一只眼睛是瞎的。”

“右眼。”邻居说。

华盛顿将手从马的右眼上挪开让警官看,马的右眼并没有瞎。

“哦,我搞错了。”邻居说道,“是左眼瞎了。”

华盛顿又挪开另一只手,马的左眼也没有瞎。

邻居说:“我又弄错了。”

“是的,”警官说道,“你已证明这匹马不是你的。你必须将它还给华盛顿先生。”



Honest Abe^①

When Abraham Lincoln was young he worked in a store. As a clerk he proved honest and efficient. One day a woman came into the store and purchased sundry articles. They added up to two dollars and six and a quarter cents. The bill was paid, and the woman was entirely satisfied. But the young store-keeper, not feeling quite sure as to the accuracy of his calculation, added up the items once more. To his dismay he found that the sum total should have been but two dollars. "I've made her pay six and a quarter cents too much," said Abe, disturbed. It was a trifle, and many clerks would have dismissed it as such. But Abe was too conscientious to forget about the overcharge.

"The money must be paid back," he decided. This would have been easy enough had the woman lived just round the corner, but, as the young man knew, she lived between two and three miles away. This, however, did not alter the matter. It was night, but he closed and locked the store, and walked to the residence of his customer. Having arrived there, he explained the matter, paid over the six and a quarter cents, and returned home satisfied.

① Abe系Abraham的昵称。

诚实的艾贝

亚伯拉罕·林肯年轻时在一家店里工作。他是一位诚实而又高效率的店员。一天,一位妇女到店里买了一些杂货,加起来一共两美元零六又四分之一美分。那位妇女付了账,自己也觉得很满意。但是,这位年轻的零售商对自己的计算结果还不是很确定,又把这些物品的价格加起来再算了一遍。让他沮丧的是总数只应是两美元。“我让她多付了六又四分之一美分。”艾贝不安地说。这是一件小事,许多店员会将它忽略掉。但艾贝太认真了,他无法忘掉多收的钱。

“钱必须还回去。”他下决心说道。如果那位妇女就住在附近的话,这是很容易办到的事。但年轻人知道,这位妇女住在两三英里以外。然而,这不会改变他的决心。尽管天色已晚,艾贝还是锁上店门,朝顾客的住所走去。到了那儿以后,他解释了整件事,归还了六又四分之一美分,然后满意地回家了。



Socrates and His House

There once lived in Greece a very wise man whose name was Socrates. Young men from all parts of the land went to him to learn wisdom from him; and he said so many pleasant things and said them in so delightful a way, that no one ever grew tired of listening to him.

One summer he built himself a house, but it was so small that his neighbors wondered how he could be content with it.

“What is the reason,” said they, “that you, who are so great a man, should build such a little box as this for your dwelling house?”

“Indeed, there may be a little reason.” said he, “but, small as the place is, I shall think myself happy if I can fill even it with true friends.”