

How to BE ENTERTAINING 如何受人欢迎



外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

Andrew Wright

How to be Entertaining

如何受人欢迎

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外语教学与研究出版社

Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press

(京)新登字 155 号

京权图字 01-97-0705

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

如何受人欢迎: 英文/(英)赖特(Wright, A.)著;鲁彩霞, 杨宏伟注.
- 北京: 外语教学与研究出版社, 1998.5

ISBN 7-5600-1453-4

I. 如… II. ①赖… ②鲁… ③杨… III. 英语-语言读物 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(98)第 12521 号

© Cambridge University Press 1986

This edition of *How to be Entertaining* by Andrew Wright
is published by arrangement with Cambridge University Press.

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外语教学与研究出版社出版发行

(北京西三环北路19号)

北京外国语大学印刷厂印刷

新华书店总店北京发行所经销

开本 787×965 1/16 7.5 印张

1998 年 11 月第 1 版 1998 年 11 月第 1 次印刷

印数: 1—30000 册

* * *

ISBN 7-5600-1453-4

H·821

定价: 8.90 元

“How to”丛书出版说明

学习语言离不开阅读。对缺乏英语语言环境的中国英语学习者而言,广泛的阅读尤其重要。许多传统的英语阅读材料语言艰深,信息性局限,趣味性不高,往往与实际生活相脱节。读者很难从中直接获取生活的灵感从而提高自身素质。

为了使英语学习更富知识性和趣味性,使英语学习者由被动地接收信息到主动提高自身素质,外语教学与研究出版社与剑桥大学出版社合作推出了这套“How to”丛书。本丛书用简洁的英语,在轻松愉快的语言环境中就如何欣赏绘画、外出旅游、开发智力、与人交流、游戏娱乐等日常生活话题娓娓道来,并且配有大量活泼有趣的插图和著名绘画作品的图画。读者在通过阅读掌握活泼的当代英语的同时,也能丰富自身的生活常识,提高艺术欣赏水平,从而把所学知识直接付诸生活实际。而且,有生动精美的图片相伴,英语学习就不再只是生硬的记忆,也许您会惊喜地发现读英语变成了一件乐事,一种享受。衷心希望本丛书能助您早日达到这种境界。

Contents

Thanks	viii
About this book	ix
Some thoughts on being entertaining	x

Your pleasure is mine 1

How to astonish your friends 3

Magic tricks 3

Tricks with coins 3

A coin and two saucers 3

A coin and a piece of paper 4

A pound note 4

A coin 4

A coin, a handkerchief and a friend 4

Five coins 5

Tricks with matches 5

Eleven matches 5

Twenty four matches 5

A match box 6

Two matches 6

Some matches 6

A box of matches 6

Tricks with drinks 7

Two glasses, water and a coin 7

Three glasses or cups 7

A glass of beer 7

Tricks with . . . all sorts of things 8

A book 8

A piece of paper and a pencil 8

A napkin 8

A piece of string 8

Two broom handles and a long piece of string 8

Two lumps of sugar 9

An egg and some salt 9

Two identical books: telepathy 9

A friend 10

A scarf or a piece of cloth and a friend 10

Nine cards, books or dinner place mats, and a friend 10

Flour, cigarette ash or powder 11

Your fingers 12

Your head 12

A book 2 12

A willing friend 12

A piece of paper 13

A jacket and a friend 13

Some tricks you can buy 13

Circus tricks 15

Juggling 15

A way of making friends 17

How to be an acrobat 18

Acrobatics on your own 18

Acrobatics with a friend 18

How to tell jokes 21

Jokes and amusing remarks 21

Incongruity 21

Superiority 22

Our identity in a group 22

Fear 23

Laughing at our society 23

Laughing at ourselves 24

Surprise and suddenness 24

An original idea 25

The illogical 25

Puns 25

Misunderstanding 26

Exaggeration 26

Understatement 26

Shaggy dog stories 27

Funny poetry 27

Clever use of the language 27

Where would you put these jokes? 28

Talking about jokes 28

How to tell stories 29

Common interests 29

Pigeons and common interests 30

The pigeon 30

Looking for connections 31

Your interests 32

Character 32

Every story must have drama 33

Contrast 33

Conflict 34

Fact and truth 34

Language 35

Similes 35

Storytelling style 36

Beginnings and endings 36

Beginnings 36

Endings 37

Inventing stories 37

Be clear! 39

Learning stories to tell 39

Amazing stories 40

Grandma in the tent 40

The nude birthday party 40

Nude in the basement 41

The ghostly hitchhiker 41

The Volkswagen 41

The second hand car 42

Final tips 42

How to get people talking 43

Interpreting dreams 43

Dream research 43

Modern theories about dreams 44

How often do we dream? 44

Our moving eyelids 45

How long do dreams last? 45

Do we need to dream? 45

Why do we dream? 45

Freud, Adler and Jung 45

Freud 45

Adler 46

Jung 46

The language of dreams 47

Your personal symbols 47

Metaphoric symbols 47

Visual similarity 47

Symbols we share with others 47

Flying 48

Falling 48

Climbing 48

Being chased 48

Missing a train/bus/boat/plane 49

Not being able to get off the train 49

Looking for a room or a house 49

Fire 49

A policeman 49

A tramp 49

A baby 49

A car 50

Some traditional beliefs 50

Can dreams predict the future? 50

Practise interpreting 51

Mrs X's dream 51

Ideas from famous people 52

Telling fortunes 52

The stars 53

Know the star signs and surprise your friends 54

The numbers know 56

Your difficult days 57

Critical days 57

Reading tea leaves 59

A few shapes 61

Dowsing 63

What do you need? 63

How to dowse? 64

How to keep your friends happy 65

Games for children 65

For little children 65

Peep Bo 65

Look at that 65

This little pig 65

The sea in the sink 66

For children six to eight years old 66

Finger faces 66

Blindfold 67

Beetles 67

Squares 67

Sprouts 68

Hide and seek in the imagination 68

Paper dog 68

Hanging garden 69

Games for adults	70
Psychological games	70
Your blind spot	70
Put the bird into the cage	70
Does your hand get bigger?	70
Men and women don't see the same things	71
Is the paper moving?	71
Your unconscious self 1	72
Your unconscious self 2	73
Word games	74
Personal crosswords	74
Teapot	75
Twenty questions	75
Pass it on	75
Hangman	76

How to be entertained	77
Hospitality, customs and manners	77
Invitations	77
Replying to invitations	78
Invitations to people's homes	79
Presents	79
Dress	79
Introductions	80
Introducing yourself	80
Shaking hands	81
Punctuality	81
How long should you stay?	81
Pubs	81
Last thoughts	82
Acknowledgements	83

Thanks

I would like to thank Alison Silver, the editor of this series who has made a significant contribution to each book in terms of content and presentation. I would also like to thank Monica Vincent for her valuable advice, Peter Donovan for his support during the long period of writing and Peter Ducker for his concern for the design and typography. I am also grateful to the teachers and students of Nord Anglia for trying out samples of the texts and giving me useful advice for their improvement.

In a book of this kind one is naturally influenced by a large number of writers, lecturers, friends and acquaintances. However, I should like to acknowledge the following writers and their books in particular: J.M. and M.J. Cohen, *Modern Quotations*, Penguin; *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, Oxford University Press; *The International Thesaurus of Quotations*, Penguin; Reg Bolton, *Circus in a Suitcase*, New Plays Inc.; Ralph Steadman, *Sigmund Freud*, Paddington Press; Robert Baldwin and Ruth Paris, *The Book of Similes*, Routledge Kegan Paul; Derek and Julia Parker, *How do you know who you are?*, Macmillan Publishing Co., New York; John Morgan and Mario Rinvulcri, *Once Upon A Time*, Cambridge University Press; Roald Dahl, *Kiss Kiss*, Penguin; Ann Petrie, *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Astrology But Thought You*

Shouldn't Ask, Methuen; Jo Sheridan, *Teacup Fortune Telling*, Granada; Tom Chetwynd, *Dictionary for Dreamers*, Paladin; G. A. Dudley, *Dreams, Their Mysteries Revealed*, Aquarian Press; Lady Penelope, *Etiquette Today*, Paperfronts; Elsie Burch Donald (ed.), *Debrett's Etiquette and Modern Manners*, Pan; Rudi McToots, *The Kids' Book of Games for Cars, Trains and Planes*, Bantam Books Inc.; Richard Fisher, *Brain Games*, Fontana; Marjorie Palmer, *Adult Games*, Dell Publishing Co., New York.

About this book

* *How to be Entertaining* is one in a series of five books. There are seven chapters, each dealing with a different aspect of being entertaining. There are several different sections in each chapter, and some will probably be more interesting and relevant to you than others. There is no need to read every section. I hope you will find it all interesting and that your reading of English will improve as well as your entertaining.

★ Indicates that there is a question you should think about on your own.

★★ Indicates that if you are reading the book with another person you should talk about this particular question with him or her.

You may be reading the book while studying English in a class, with a teacher, or you may be reading it at home in the evenings, or on a train, or anywhere else – it doesn't matter.

What I do hope is that you enjoy reading about being entertaining – in English!

Some thoughts on being entertaining

★ Do you agree with any of them?

Laugh, and the world laughs with you;

Weep, and you weep alone.

(Ella Wheeler Wilcox, 'Solitude',
Collected Poems, 1917)

*There is nothing in which people
* more betray their character than
in what they laugh at.*

*(Goethe, *Elective Affinities*, 1809)

** All that the comedian has to
show for his years of work and
aggravation is the echo of
forgotten laughter.*

*(Fred Allen, *Treadmill to Oblivion*,
1954)

*Everything is funny as long as it
is happening to somebody else.*

*(Will Rogers, 'Warning to Jokers: Lay
* Off the Prince,' *The Illiterate Digest*,
1942)

*The most wasted day is that in
which we have not laughed.*

*(Chamfort, *Maximes et Pensées*, 1805)

*One can know a man from his
laugh, and if you like a man's
laugh before you know anything
of him, you may confidently say
that he is a good man.*

(Dostoyevsky, *The House of the Dead*,
1862)

*You are not angry with people
when you laugh at them.*

Humour teaches tolerance. *

(W. Somerset Maugham, *The Summing
Up*, 1938)

*Humour is the first of the gifts to
perish in a foreign tongue.* *

(Virginia Woolf, 'On Not Knowing
Greek,' *The Common Reader: First
Series*, 1925)

*The secret of being a bore is to
tell everything.* *

(Voltaire, *Sept discours en vers sur
l'homme*, 1738)

*Bore, noun. A person who talks
when you wish him to listen.*

(Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's
Dictionary*, 1881-1911) *

A healthy male adult bore consumes each year one and a half times his own weight in other people's patience.

(John Updike, 'Confessions of a Wild Bore,' *Assorted Prose*, 1965)

A bore is a man who, when you ask him how he is, tells you.

(Bert Leston Taylor, quoted in A. Andrews, *Quotations for Speakers and Writers*)

It is only the very young girl at her first dinner-party whom it is difficult to entertain. At her second dinner-party, and thereafter, she knows the whole art of being amusing. All she has to do is to listen; all we men have to do is to tell her about ourselves.

(A.A. Milne (1882-1956), *Going Out to Dinner*)

To get into society nowadays, one has either to feed people, amuse people, or shock people.

(Oscar Wilde, *A Woman of No Importance*, 1893)

There is pleasure in hardship heard about.

(Euripides, *Helen*, 412 BC)

An honest tale speeds best being plainly told.

(Shakespeare, *Richard III*, 1592-93)

There are several kinds of stories, but only one difficult kind – the humorous.

(Mark Twain, *How to Tell a Story*, 1895)

'The story is like the wind,' the Bushman prisoner said. 'It comes from a far off place, and we feel it.'

(Laurens Van Der Post (b.1906), *A Story Like the Wind*)

It is a happy talent to know how to play.

(Emerson, *Journals*, 1834)

There are toys for all ages.

(English Proverb)

In our play we reveal what kind of people we are.

(Ovid, *The Art of Love*, c. 8 AD)

There is a time and a place for everything

(English Proverb)

It takes all sorts to make a world.

(English Proverb)



* Andrew Wright juggling with silk scarves.

(Shakespeare, Richard III, 1591-92)

Your pleasure is mine

THIS IS
HOW TO TELL
A JOKE!

entertain /en'teɪn/ *vi* 1 to receive as a visitor or guest 2 to give interest and pleasure, to amuse 3 *vi* to show hospitality

BUT I
CAN'T DO
THAT! OOO

The success of the ideas in this book depends on several things: your personality, the personality of the other person (or people), the occasion and the place where you are.

You

I very much hope you will find some interesting and useful ideas in this book. But I am sure you will agree with me that no one can learn these ideas and simply become entertaining! Some

people are naturally quiet and enjoy listening and encouraging other people to speak. And that is one way of being entertaining. Most of the activities in this book can be done quietly!

Other sorts of people don't mind talking to a lot of people; they may even want to control everything and organise all the entertainment! And such people can be a wonderful asset to * a party.

★ What do you enjoy doing?

The other person or people

What does the other person (or do the other people) want and expect? That is a more useful question than asking how old they are or whether they are men, women or children. For example, some old people are full of youthful fun * and some young people are rather old-fashioned. So people's personalities are more important than their age.

The relationship between you and the other person or people is important. Are you and the other people strangers? Do you know each other very well or only a little? If you don't know them how can you entertain them? What sort of entertainment is 'safe'? Usually the best way to entertain a stranger is to listen to them and make them feel that you are interested in them. In this way you give pleasure and, at the same time, you learn about them so that you will know how to be entertaining in other ways.

The occasion

Some people tell jokes and stories and make people laugh or be deeply moved. Other people try to tell a story or a joke which may be just as good but * total failure! Laughter, emotion, and the wish to understand are all within each person. The successful entertainer releases laughter, emotion and interest, but he or she can't put them there. There are moments when people are ready to be interested and ready to laugh and there are moments when they aren't.

* A good entertainer is very sensitive to the right and wrong moment. The good entertainer listens and looks to see how the other person is feeling. Of course, a good entertainer can create

the right mood and expectation before beginning their story, game or magic trick, and will find a way of linking what they want to do with what has been happening. *

This book

Please don't try to read this book from cover to cover! Begin with any part of any section and try it out. But do try the ideas, please don't just read about them. When you try them you will find your own way of doing them, according to your personality and that of your friends. If you are a quiet sort of person you can still do all of these ideas: they don't need a large audience. * Almost all the activities in this book can be done with one or two people only.

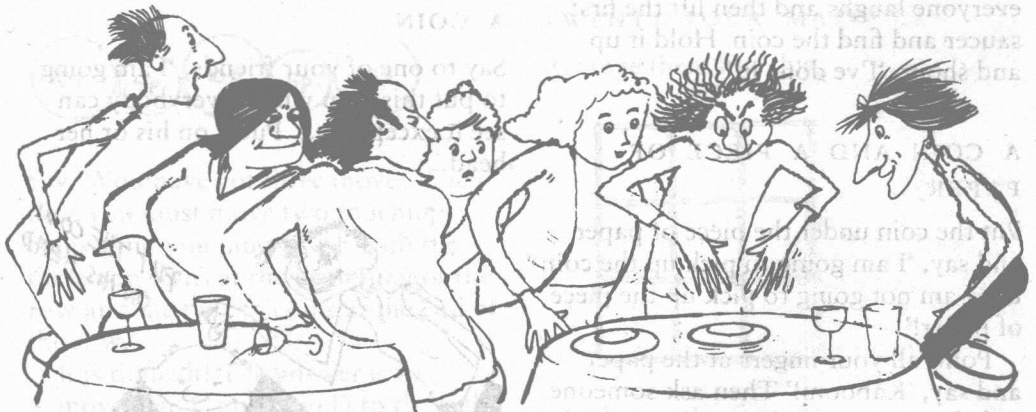
The last chapter of the book is intended for those of you who are going to visit an English speaking country. It gives advice on how to be entertained when you are in Britain. It is an art to be entertained! You must understand your hosts and then you and they can share a good time together.

How to astonish your friends

Magic tricks

If you like, you can do tricks at a party * and be announced as, 'The Magician'. However, the best time to entertain people with tricks is when they aren't expecting it. I am sure you know those times when you go out with your

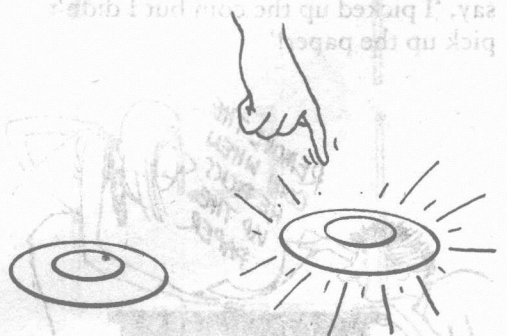
friends for the evening, perhaps to a pub or a restaurant, when everybody wants a bit of fun but nothing really happens. That is the moment to start one of these tricks. You won't need any special materials for these tricks, nor will you need to practise them very much!



Tricks with coins

* A COIN AND TWO SAUCERS

Turn the saucers upside down. Put the coin beneath one of the saucers. Say to your friends, 'I am going to make the coin go from beneath that saucer to beneath that saucer.' Hold out your hands and make them shake as if magic is coming out of them. Point them at the saucer with the coin beneath it.



Then move your hands across to the other saucer.

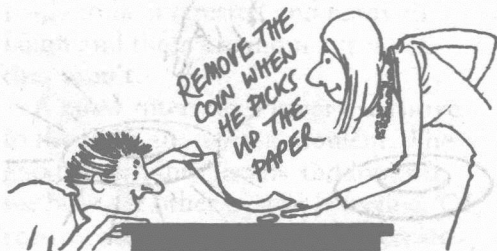
- Look under the other saucer and
- * show astonishment that the coin is not there! Look under the first saucer and
- * see the coin. Frown! Do the magic again. And once more, find that the coin hasn't moved. Do the magic again. But this time, when you pick up the second saucer to see if the coin has arrived don't let other people see!
- * Show relief and triumph as if it has arrived and then say, with triumph, 'Yes!' and add with great seriousness, 'Now, ladies and gentlemen, for the first time in . . . I am going to make it go back again!'

Rapidly do your magic action as everyone laughs and then lift the first saucer and find the coin. Hold it up and shout, 'I've done it!'

A COIN AND A PIECE OF PAPER

Put the coin under the piece of paper and say, 'I am going to pick up the coin but I am not going to pick up the piece of paper!'

Point all your fingers at the paper and say, 'Kaboom!' Then ask someone to help you. Say to them, 'Have a look! And point at the paper. They will probably pick up the paper or at least, raise it a little. Pick up the coin, and say, 'I picked up the coin but I didn't pick up the paper!'



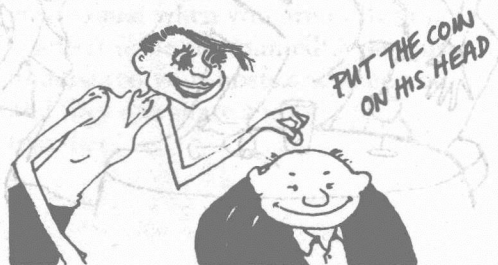
This makes the other person look a bit foolish . . . and they only did it to help you, so give them an apology!

A POUND NOTE (or any other currency note) a pile of coins and a glass of beer (or any other liquid!)

Put the pound note on the rim of the glass. Put the pile of coins on the pound note. Ask your friend to remove the pound note but not to touch the coins. It's difficult! The answer is to pull the note very quickly! You can also try this trick with a table cloth but get ready to leave quickly if one of your friends smashes all the plates, etc.

A COIN

Say to one of your friends, 'I am going to put this coin where everybody can see it except you!' Put it on his or her head.



A COIN, A HANDKERCHIEF AND A FRIEND

Put the coin on your palm. Cover the coin with the handkerchief. Ask several people to put their hand beneath the handkerchief and feel the coin, to make sure that it is still there. Then take the corner of the handkerchief and pull it rapidly off your hand! The coin has gone! How? You must make sure the last friend knows the trick! Your last