

每天读点英文

幽默故事 全集

精华版

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长久以来,英语学习一直强调单词、句型、语法的习得,我们学来的英语严肃、正式,却有失活泼。在与以英语为母语的人交流时,常常会遭遇尴尬场面:外国朋友风趣、幽默地讲了一个笑话,我们却丝毫体会不到其中的笑料,傻傻地坐在那里没有反应。仔细想来,学习英语已有数年之久,单词认得成千上万,句型更是不在话下,早已烂熟于心,可就是不能理解小小的幽默故事,也体会不到其中的乐趣。因此,小小的幽默故事不容小觑,它融汇了英语国家人民千百年来的智慧,沉淀了这些民族上千年的文化,仅凭一些单词和句型根本无法理解其中的奥妙、感受其中的笑料。为了帮助英语学习者学习生活化的语言,理解英语国家人们的幽默、熟知这些国家的文化,我们组织了一批知识及经验丰富的作者编写了这

本书选材广泛,囊括了经典的英文幽默故事和现代幽默故事,并根据内容将幽默故事归类:家庭幽默、两性幽默、天真童趣、名人幽默、职场幽默、医患幽默、军营幽默、校园幽默、宗教幽默、酒吧宾馆、律师法庭、警察交通、文字幽默、动物幽默、综合幽默。这些幽默故事都是作者精挑细选的结果:有长有短,有难有易,部分幽默故事可以作为英语学习者的口语、语音、语调练习材料,一些故事还不失诙谐地反映了社会现实。在那些滑稽、诙谐、令人捧腹

本《每天读点英文幽默故事全集》(精华版)。

的语言背后,充满耐人寻味的丰富内涵,闪烁着心灵智慧的光辉,展示了乐观、自信、积极的人生态度,具有一种神奇的力量。同时,为了帮助广大读者更好地理解这些幽默故事,所有故事都采用英汉对照的方式,翻译精彩,在忠实原文的基础上,将原文的笑料、"包袱"无一遗漏地呈现在读者眼前;对于故事中的生词、词组都逐一作了注释,使读者在理解幽默故事的同时,扩大词汇量,开阔视野,感受不同的文化,让读者不仅知其一也知其二,例如Skip to Lose Weight这篇幽默故事中,skip这个单词多次出现,有的指"跳跃",有的指"略过,省去",对于skip这个词的不同理解让人开怀大笑。读者通过每天读点英文幽默故事,不仅可以理解异国的文化及幽默,还可以学习生动活泼、富有生活情趣的语言。

我们真诚地希望《每天读点英文幽默故事全集》 (精华版)能每天陪伴读者左右,为英语学习者开启 学习英语的另一个通道。由于编译者水平有限,疏漏 之处敬请读者指正。



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1.耶稣从不开车

He Walks Everywhere He Goes

A young man came home and said, "Dad, I just got my driver's license1 and would like to use the family car."

Father replied, "OK, son. But, first, you have to get good grades in school, keep your room clean, make the yard neat, and cut your hair. Come back in a few months and then we'll see."

Well, several months passed and the young man came into the house with his report card in his hand, "Dad, I got great marks on my report card. I've been keeping my room as neat as a pin, and the yard is always ship-shape2. How about letting me use the car?"

Father replied, "That's all true, but son, you didn't cut your hair."

Son said, "But, dad, Jesus had long hair too."

Father replied, "Yes, son, you're perfectly right. And he walks everywhere he goes."

一个小伙子回到家跟爸爸说:"爸爸,我拿驾照了, 我想开车。"

爸爸答道:"好的,儿子。但是,你要拿到好成绩, 要把房间给收拾整齐, 要把院子打扫干净, 还要把头 发给理了。这几个月做好了我们再谈开车的事。"

几个月后,小伙子拿着成绩单回到家,"爸爸,我 每门功课都得了优,房间整整齐齐,院子干干净净。我 能开车了吗?"

爸爸回答:"确实做得很好,但是儿子,你还没有 理发呢。"

儿子说:"但是,爸爸,耶稣的头发也很长啊。"

爸爸回答: "是的,儿子,完全正确。但是耶稣去 哪都是走着去的呀。"

注释 1. license n. 执照, 许可证

2. ship-shape a. 整齐的,有 条不紊的

2.返老还童药片 Rejuvenation Pill

The old age had crept² in on Mrs. Daly. Aches and pains bothered3 her day and night. One day, she received a package with some pills and a letter from her son. The letter said, "Dear Mom, I am sending you some wonder drug called rejuvenation pills. It will make you well and years younger."

A few months later, Jimmy came home. Sitting on the porch4 was a beautiful young lady rocking a cradle with a baby in it sucking the bottle.

"Where is my mother?" Jimmy asked.

"Don't be silly. I am your mother. Those pills were marvelous⁵."

"Imagine⁶, with one pill, you're as beautiful as anyone can be. Once more, you could have a baby. My, they are powerful."

"That's not a baby. That's your father. He took two."

戴莉女士渐渐变老了,身上的疼痛日日夜夜折磨 着她。有一天,戴莉收到儿子寄来的一个包裹,里面 放着一些药片和一封信。儿子在信中说:"亲爱的妈妈, 我给你寄来一些神奇的药片, 返老还童药片, 吃了后 你会变得健康年轻。"

几个月后, 吉米回到家。一位年轻美丽的女士坐 在门廊上摇着摇篮,摇篮里有个婴儿吸着奶瓶。

- "我的妈妈呢?"吉米问。
- "别犯傻了,我就是你妈妈,那些药片太神了。"
- "真是不可思议,那个药吃一片就可以美梦成真, 再吃一片就可以生个孩子。哇噻,药片可真厉害。"
 - "那可不是孩子,那是你爸,他吃了两片。"

- 1. rejuvenation n. 返老还童, 恢复活力
- 2. creep v. 缓慢行进
- 3. bother v. 打扰, 使不安
- 4. porch n. 门廊
- 5. marvelous a. 极好的, 非 凡的,不可思议的
- 6. imagine v. 想象,料想

3.虔诚的心愿

Pious Wishes

Martin is traveling with his wife and motherin-law in a Far East country. At a place of honor his mother-in-law makes a careless remark², which the native people take as an **insult**³ to the **royal**⁴ family.

Martin is dragged off to court⁵ with his wife and mother-in-law and they are **sentenced**⁶ to **corporal**⁷ punishment. Each of them is to receive 50 lashes8 on the rear9 end with a cane. But because the royal family doesn't want to appear hostile to foreigners, they grant11 the guests in their country a wish beforehand, as long as it is able to be fulfilled.

Mrs. Martin is first.

"What do you wish for yourself?"

"I would like a **pillow**12 **bound**13 on my rear end before the lashings."

"Okay, that shall be granted to you."

Mrs. Martin has the pillow bound to her rear end and receives her punishment. But because the pillow is too small and the **executioner**¹⁴ also hits her back a couple of times, she receives a few blows.

Next it is Martin's mother-in-law's turn.

"What do you wish for yourself?"

"I would like a pillow bound on my rear end and a pillow bound on my back before the lashings."

"Okay, that shall be granted to you."

The mother-in-law receives her fifty lashes, but hardly feels the pain through the pillows.

Then comes Martin himself.

"What do you wish for yourself?"

"I have two wishes. Do you want to fulfill them for me?"

"Because you are a guest in our country, we want to fulfill your wishes for you, as long as they are reasonable."

"I would like 100 lashes instead of 50."

The executioner is surprised, but recovers again right away and replies, "Yes, that is a **pious**¹⁵ wish, and it shall be granted to you. And what is your second wish?"

"I would like to get my mother-in-law bound to my back."

马丁和妻子及岳母在远东的一个国家旅行。在一个神圣的地方,他的岳母不小心说了一句忌讳的话,当 地的居民觉得这是对皇室的侮辱。

马丁,妻子和岳母三个人被带到法庭,接受体罚。 每个人要杖责五十下。但是皇室不想表现出对外国人 有敌意,于是答应在杖责前为每人实现一个愿望,只 要这个愿望能够实现。

首先是马丁太太。

- "你有什么愿望?"
- "我想在杖责前在屁股上绑一个枕头。"
- "好,这个可以实现。"

马丁夫人屁股上绑了一个枕头接受惩罚。但是因 为枕头太小了,而且执行官打了她的后背几次,她还 是被打了几下。

下一个轮到马丁的岳母。

- "你有什么愿望?"
- "我想在杖责前在屁股上绑一个枕头,在后背上也 绑一个枕头。"

"好,这个可以实现。"

他的岳母受了五十下杖打,不过隔着枕头几乎感 觉不到疼痛。

最后,轮到马丁了。

- "你有什么愿望?"
- "我有两个愿望。你能帮我实现它们吗?"
- "因为你是我们国家的客人,只要你的愿望合理, 我们都会帮你实现。"
 - "我想要一百下杖打,而不是五十下。"

执行官很惊讶,但是很快回过神来,说:"这是个 虔诚的心愿,可以实现。你的第二个愿望是什么?"

"我想把我的岳母绑在我后背上。"

- 1. mother-in-law n. 丈母娘, 岳母
- 2. remark n. 评论
- 3. insult n. 侮辱
- 4. royal a. 皇室的
- 5. court n. 法庭
- 6. sentence v. 审判
- 7. corporal a. 身体的
- 8. lash n. 鞭打, 抽打

- 9. rear a. 后面的
- 10. hostile a. 充满敌意的
- 11. grant v. 准许
- 12. pillow n. 枕头
- 13. bound v. (bind的过去 式)捆绑,系
- 14. executioner n. 执行者
- 15. pious a. 虔诚的

4.倒霉的雄狮

Big Game Mishap¹

A big-game hunter went on **safari**² with his wife and mother-in-law. One evening, while still deep in the jungle, the Mrs. awoke to find her mother gone. Rushing to her husband, she insisted on them both trying to find her mother.

The hunter picked up his **rifle**³, took a **swig**⁴ of whiskey, and started to look for her. In a **clearing**⁵ not far from the camp, they came upon a chilling sight: the mother-in-law was backed up against a thick, **impenetrable**⁶ bush, and a large male lion stood facing her.

The wife said, "What are we going to do?"

"Nothing," said the hunter, "The lion got himself into this **mess**⁷, let him get himself out of it."

一个专门猎杀狮子、大象等大型动物的猎人和妻子、岳母一起去打猎。一天晚上,他们在丛林深处扎了营。妻子一觉醒来,发现母亲不见了。她急忙跑去告诉丈夫,坚持要和丈夫一起去找她母亲。

猎人拿起来复枪,喝了一大口威士忌,和妻子一起去寻找岳母。在距离帐篷不远的空地,他们看到一个令人不寒而栗的场景:岳母站在一片浓密的灌木丛前,无法后退,面前对着一头雄狮。

妻子说:"我们该怎么办?"

猎人说:"狮子自己惹的麻烦,让它自己解决吧。"

注释

- 1. mishap n. 小事故, 倒霉事
- 2. safari *n*. 游猎, 捕猎野兽 的旅行
- 3. rifle n. 来复枪, 步枪
- 4. swig n. 大口 (酒等)
- 5. clearing n. 林中空地
- 6. impenetrable a. 不可进入的, 穿不透的
- 7. mess n. 困境,混乱

5.地位转换

Role Reversal

Barbara Walters filed report on gender roles in Kuwait a few years prior to the Gulf War, and noted then that, in traditional Islamic² fashion, women customarily3 walked about 10 feet behind their husbands.

Recently, Barbara returned to Kuwait and observed that the Men now walked several yards behind their wives. She approached one of the Kuwaiti women for an explanation.

"This is marvelous"," Barbara said, "What enabled women here to achieve their reversal5 of roles?"

The Kuwaiti woman replied, "Land mines."

海湾战争开始的前几年, 芭芭拉 · 沃特斯对科威 特的男女地位进行了报道。她当时注意到:按照伊斯兰 教的传统, 妇女通常跟在丈夫十米远的后面。

最近芭芭拉又来到科威特,她发现,现在男人都 走在妻子后面几码远的地方。她走向一名科威特妇女, 希望得到解释。

芭芭拉说:"这太神奇了,是什么使科威特妇女成 功的转换了男女之间的地位呢?"

那名科威特妇女回答道:"是地雷。"

- 1. prior to 在……之前
- 2. Islamic a. 伊斯兰教的
- 3. customarily adv. 习惯地, 习俗地
- 4. marvelous a. 神奇的
- 5. reversal n. 转换

6.完美女友

Perfect Woman

Bob is almost 30 years old, his friends have already gotten married one after another, and Bob just dates¹ and dates.

Finally a friend asked him, "What's the matter, Bob, are you looking for a perfect woman? Are you that particular? Can't you find anyone who suits you?"

"No," Bob replied. "I met many nice girls, but as soon as I brought them home to meet my parents, my mother didn't like them. So I kept on looking!"

"Listen," his friend suggested, "Why don't you find a girl who's just like your dear mother?"

Several months went by and again Bob and his friend got together.

"So Bob. Did you find the perfect girl yet? One that just like your mother?"

Bob **shrugged**² his shoulders, "Yes, I found one just like Mom. My mother loved her, they became fast friends."

"So are you and this girl engaged?"

"I'm afraid not, my father can't stand3 her!"

鲍勃快三十了,朋友们一个接一个都结婚了,而 鲍勃还老是约会,约会。

一个朋友忍不住问:"鲍勃,你怎么回事儿?你是在找一个十全十美的女人吗?你就那么挑剔?连一个合适的都找不到?"

"不是,"鲍勃回答。"我遇到过很多好女孩,但是只要带回家见父母,我妈妈都不喜欢,所以我还在寻觅!"

"听着,"他的朋友建议,"为什么不找一个像你妈妈的?"

几个月后鲍勃和朋友又见面了。

"鲍勃,找到完美女友了吗?像你妈妈那样的?"

鲍勃耸了耸肩,"是的,我找了一个像我妈的。我 妈挺喜欢她,很快她们就成了朋友。"

"你和这个女孩订婚了吗?"

"还没有呢,这个女孩我爸受不了!"

注释 1. date v. 约会, 谈恋爱

2. shrug v. 耸肩

3. stand v. 忍耐, 忍受

7. 离婚

The Divorce

John had waited for months to get a divorce and now he was free from his **domineering**¹ wife.

"Free at last!" he screamed, throwing his divorce papers into the air. "Now, I can eat when I want to, watch television when I want to."

Two months later John was found being escorted to jail by a police officer.

A shocked friend, on seeing poor John handcuffed, asked, "John, why are you under arrest?" I thought your troubles were over when you divorced your wife.

"I couldn't pay my alimony2," related John sadly.

"Why couldn't you pay your alimony?"

"My ex-wife has custody of the money and my business."

约翰等了好几个月才离婚,现在他终于摆脱了他 专横的妻子。

"终于自由了。"他尖叫着,把离婚协议抛到空中, "现在,我想吃就吃,想看电视就看电视。"

两个月后,有人发现约翰被警官带进了监狱。

- 一个朋友看见可怜的约翰戴着手铐,感到很震惊, 问道:"约翰,你为什么被捕了?我以为你和你妻子离 婚了就没什么麻烦了。"
 - "我付不起我的赡养费。"约翰伤心地回答。
 - "你为什么付不起你的赡养费呢?"
 - "我前妻掌握着我的财产和生意啊。"

注释 1. domineering a. 专横的

2. alimony n. 赡养费

8. 男士俱乐部

Men's Club

There were a lot of men's clubs in London a few years ago. Men went there and read their newspapers, quietly, or drank or had meals with their friends.

All of these men's clubs had a lot of very good servants¹. At every club one of the servants was a doorman. Mr. Grace was the doorman of one of these clubs. He was fifty-five years old, and he had grey hair and a big grey moustache. The telephone rang in his office at six o'clock in the evening, and a woman spoke to him. She said, "Are you the doorman of the George Club?"

"Yes, I am," Mr. Grace answered.

"Please give my husband a message," the woman said.

"Your husband isn't at the club this evening," Mr. Grace answered.

"But I haven't told you his name!" the woman