

学生课外知识读本 (英汉对照)

陈原真 编写

英语幽默故事 与 笑话集锦



浙江大学出版社

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Preface

前言

幽默故事与笑话在人们生活中的重要性是不言而喻的。人们常说：“笑一笑，十年少”；“一笑解千愁”……显然，生活中不能没有笑声，因为笑是医病的良药，笑是生活的味精。有了笑声，我们的生活就更精彩。

有人说中国人是一个缺乏幽默感的民族。这样说不是无知，就是偏见，笔者是万万不能苟同的。中国是有 5000 多年历史的文明古国，中华民族从古到今有着灿烂的文化，在漫漫的历史长河中也创造出各种风格的让人捧腹的幽默与笑话。譬如早在唐朝就流传着一则幽默故事：有一天弄臣犯了错，皇帝把他推下御花园的池子，再把他拉上来问：“怎么样？你在水里有没有见到屈原啊？如果没见到，就再把你推下去。”“臣见到屈原了，”弄臣居然说。皇帝笑着追问：“屈原跟你说了什么吗？”“他说了，”弄臣回答，“他说他没遇上好主子，所以投了水，你有这么英明的皇帝，为什么也要投水？”一句幽默居然可以救命，实在令人惊讶。古代对联中表现的幽默更不胜枚举了。譬如有个学生上课时身上痒，东抓抓西抓抓，把老师弄火了，老师就给他出了个上联，要求学生下对下联。上联是：“抓抓痒痒，痒痒抓抓，愈抓愈痒，愈痒愈抓。”学生对不出来，挨了揍，哭着回家，告诉了爸爸。爸爸说：“这有什么稀奇？我给你写好下联，明天拿去交给老师。”学生第二天把他爸爸写的下联交给了老师。下联是：“生生死死，死死生生，先生先死，先死先生。”这对子多损，但又是多么机智和幽默啊！

在现今中国人的生活中也不乏幽默与笑话。有一位教授接到一个朋友送来的古画，请他鉴定。明明是假的，教授居然也盖上鉴定印章，而且一边盖一边说：“唉，如果是行家看到，一定了解我是因为人情，不得不这么做。如果是外行看到，反正他是外行，也没什么关系。”这位教授说的虽是否理，却不失幽默。

幽默与笑话经常是言简意赅，婉转诙谐，软中有硬，实中带虚，哈哈一笑，答案明了。

不仅是中国人生活中充满了幽默情趣，世界各国人民也同样如此。关于幽默与人们生活的重要关系，正如俄罗斯心理学家谢尔盖·韦尔宾讲述的那样：“幽默常使人开怀大笑。笑是真正有效的药物，笑是一种特殊的呼吸方式。笑的时候，肺部得到彻底放松，此时血液中的氧气交换量会增加四倍，体内生理过程变得异常活跃，面部肌肉也运动起来，进而促进大脑血液循环。最主要的是，人在开怀大笑时，血液中会出现内啡肽（让人产生快感的激素），压力和疼痛感烟消云散……”因此，医生证实，笑也能治病，哈哈一笑百病消。可见幽默小品是提高人们生活质量不可或缺的添加剂。我们既要发扬我们民族的优良传统，也要借鉴外国的优秀文化。为此，笔者特地编选了部分精彩的外国幽默与笑话，以飨读者，使大家生活中多一些笑声，也使中外的文化得以交流，相互学习，相互促进。

本书内容分三大部分。第一部分是幽默故事（英汉对照），第二部分是幽默对话（英汉对照），第三部分为幽默谜语（附有答案），适合大中学生与英语爱好者阅读。

由于编者水平有限，缺点和错误在所难免，期盼广大读者赐教。

编者
2005 年元月

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Part One Humorous Stories

1. I Want to Get Out

A bar owner locked up his place at 2 a.m. and went home to sleep. He had been in bed only a few minutes when the phone rang. "What time do you open up in the morning?" he heard an obviously inebriated man inquire.

The owner was furious; he slammed down the receiver and went back to bed. A few minutes later there was another call and he heard the same voice ask the same question. "Listen," the owner shouted, "there's no sense in asking me what time I open because I wouldn't let a person in your condition in..."

"I don't want to get in," the caller interjected. "I want to get out."

2. Racehorses Are Boasting

Several racehorses are in a stable. One of them starts boasting about his track record.

"Of my last 15 races," he says, "I've won 8."

Another horse breaks in, "Well, I've won 19 of my last 27!"

"That's good, but I've taken 28 of 36," says another, flicking his tail.

At this point a greyhound who's been sitting nearby pipes up. "I don't mean to boast," he says, "but of my last 90 races, I've won 88."

The horses are clearly amazed. "Wow," says one after a prolonged silence, "a talking dog!"

3. A Slippery Parrot

The pet-shop customer couldn't believe his good fortune. The parrot he had just bought could recite Shakespeare's sonnets, imitate opera stars and intone Homer's epic poems in Greek. And he cost only \$600.

Once the man got the bird home, however, not another word passed his beak. After three weeks the disconsolate customer returned to the shop and asked for his money back. "When we had this bird," said the proprietor, "he could recite poetry and sing like an angel. Now you want me to take him back when he's no longer himself? Well, all right. Out of the goodness of my heart I'll give you \$100."

Reluctantly the man accepted his loss. Just as the door shut behind him he heard the parrot say to the shop owner, "Don't forget—my share is \$250."

4. An Insane Cabbie

Late for a return flight from Dublin, an American tourist in Ireland jumped into a cab. "Quick," he said, "get me to the airport as fast as you can!" The cabbie nodded and floored the gas pedal. Soon they were barreling along at more than 70 miles an hour.

Just ahead a stoplight was bright red. The cab shot through the intersection without slowing down in the slightest. "Are you blind?" shouted the tourist. "That was a red light!"

The cabbie was unfazed. "I don't believe in red lights, sir, nor do any of my five cab-driving brothers." After two more hair-raising hurtles through red lights, the tourist was relieved to see a green light. But right before the intersection, the cabbie slammed on the brakes. "Are you insane?" yelled the passenger. "That was a green light!"

"True, sir," replied the cabbie. "But you never know when one of my brothers may be coming through."

5. Three Wishes

A despondent woman was walking along the beach when she saw a bottle on the sand. She picked it up and pulled out the cork. Whoosh! A big puff of smoke appeared.

"You have released me from my prison," the genie told her. "To show my thanks, I grant you three wishes. But take care, for with each wish, your mate will receive double of whatever you request."

"Why?" the woman asked. "That bum left me for another woman."

"That is how it is written," replied the genie.

The woman shrugged and then asked for a million dollars. There was a flash of light, and a million dollars appeared at her feet. At the same instant, in a far-off place, her wayward husband looked down to see twice that amount at his feet.

"And your second wish?"

"Genie, I want the world's most expensive diamond necklace." Another flash of light, and the woman was holding the precious treasure. And, in that distant place, her husband was looking for a gem broker to buy his latest bonanza.

"Genie, is it really true that my husband has two million dollars and more jewels than I do, and that he gets double of whatever I wish for?"

The genie said it was indeed true.

"Okay, genie, I'm ready for my last wish," the woman said. "Scare me half to death."

6. A Good Reminder

"If he starts to cry, you'll have to leave the theater," a movie-theater usher warned a young couple with an infant, "but you can ask for your money back."

Thirty minutes into the film, the husband whispered to his wife, "What do you think?"

"This film is a waste of time."

"I agree. Why not wake the baby up?"

7. St. Peter's Trouble

A young couple had a fatal car accident on the way to their wedding. When they met St. Peter at the Pearly Gates, they asked if it was possible for them to marry in heaven. He said he would make some inquiries and get back to them.

A year later, St. Peter found the couple and told them they could get married. "Could we get a divorce if it doesn't work out?" they wanted to know.

"Good grief!" St. Peter exclaimed. "It took me a whole year to find a preacher up here—and now you want me to find a lawyer."

8. The Minister's Puzzle

After a preacher died and went to heaven, he noticed that a New York cabdriver had been given a higher place than he had. "I don't understand," he complained to St. Peter. "I devoted my entire life to my congregation."

"Our policy is to reward results," explained St. Peter. "Now what happened, Reverend, whenever you gave a sermon?"

The minister admitted that some in the congregation fell asleep.

"Exactly," said St. Peter. "And when people rode in this man's taxi, they not only stayed awake, they prayed."

9. Why They Yell in Protest?

The sociologist on an African jungle expedition held up her camera to take pictures of the native children at play. Suddenly the youngsters began to yell in protest.

Turning red, the sociologist apologized to the chief for her insensitivity and told him she had forgotten that certain tribes believed a person lost his soul if his picture was taken. She explained to him, in long-winded detail, the operation of a camera. Several times the chief tried to get a word in, but to no avail.

Certain she had put all the chief's fears to rest, the sociologist then allowed him to speak. Smiling, he said, "The children were trying to tell you that you forgot to take

off the lens cap!"

10. Pekingese

Henry's new job had him spending a lot of time on the road, and out of concern for his wife's safety he visited a pet shop to look at watchdogs.

"I have just the dog for you," said the salesman, showing him a miniature Pekingese.

"Come on," Henry protested, "that little thing couldn't hurt a flea."

"Ah, but he knows karate," the salesman replied. "Here, let me show you." He pointed to a cardboard box and ordered, "Karate the box!" Immediately the dog shredded it. The salesman then pointed to an old wooden chair and instructed, "Karate the chair!" The dog reduced the chair to matchsticks. Astounded, Henry bought the dog.

When he got home, Henry announced that he had purchased a watchdog, but his wife took one look at the Pekingese and was unimpressed. "That scrawny thing couldn't fight his way out of a paper bag!" she said.

"But this Pekingese is special," Henry insisted. "He's a karate expert."

"Now I've heard everything," Henry's wife replied. "Karate my foot!"

11. The Worst Part of the Job

Because of the shortage of jobs in town, a boy appeared for work on a farm. The foreman decided to give him a try and told him to milk a cow, equipping him with a stool and a bucket.

An hour later the boy returned dirty and sweaty, the bucket in one hand and the broken stool in the other.

"Extracting the milk was easy," he explained. "The worst part was getting the cow to sit on the stool!"

12. A Marriage Terror

Dexter had just returned from two weeks of vacation. He asked his boss for two more weeks off to get married.

"What?" shouted the boss. "I can't give you more time now. Why didn't you get married while you were off?"

"Are you nuts?" replied Dexter. "That would have ruined my entire vacation!"

13. On a Collision Course

Through the pitch-black night, the captain sees a light dead ahead on a collision

course with his ship. He sends a signal: "Change your course 10 degrees, east."

The light signals back: "Change yours, 10 degrees west."

Angry, the captain sends: "I'm a navy captain! Change your course, sir!"

"I'm a seaman, second class," comes the reply. "Change your course, sir."

Now the captain is furious. "I'm a battleship! I'm not changing course!"

There's one last reply before collision, "I'm a lighthouse."

14. Who's Stupid?

During our basic army training, a sergeant was telling us how a submachine gun sprayed bullets. He drew a circle on a blackboard and announced that it had 260 degrees.

"But, sergeant, all circles have 360 degrees," someone called out.

"Don't be stupid," the sergeant roared. "This is a small circle."

15. A Lazy Son-in-Law

A very successful businessman had a meeting with his new son-in-law. "I love my daughter, and now I welcome you into the family," said the man. "To show you how much we care for you, I'm making you a 50-50 partner in my business. All you have to do is go to the factory every day and learn the operation."

The son-in-law interrupted. "I hate factories. I can't stand the noise."

"I see," replied the father-in-law. "Well, then you'll work in the office and take charge of some of the operations."

"I hate office work," said the son-in-law. "I can't stand being stuck behind a desk."

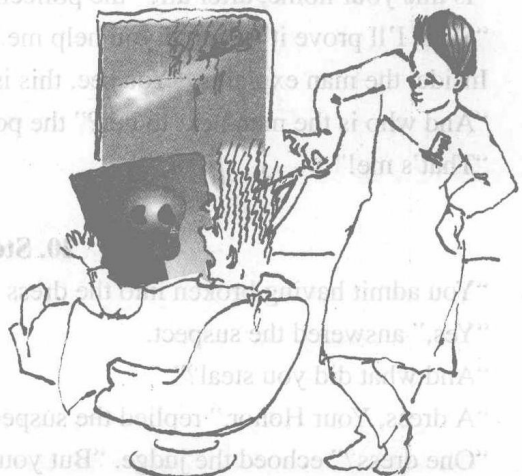
"Wait a minute," said the father-in-law. "I just made you half-owner of a money-making organization, but you don't like factories and won't work in an office. What am I going to do with you?"

"Easy," said the young man.

"Buy me out."

16. What For?

The reading material at the barbershop consisted entirely of murder stories, mysteries, thrillers, and ghost tales.



When I asked the barber if he wanted to terrify his customers, he replied, "No, sir. These books make the customers' hair stand up and then it becomes easier to trim and cut."

17. Boasting

Three women started boasting about their sons. "What a birthday I had last year!" exclaimed the first. "My son, that wonderful boy, threw me a big party in a fancy restaurant. He even paid for plane tickets for my friends."

"That's very nice, but listen to this," said the second. "Last winter, my son gave me an all-expenses-paid cruise to the Greek islands. First class."

"That's nothing!" interrupted the third. "For five years now, my son has been paying a psychiatrist \$150 an hour, three times a week. And the whole time he talks about nothing but me."

18. Speeding

"I'll need to see your license and registration," says the highway patrolman after stopping a middle-aged couple. "You were speeding."

"But, officer," says the husband, "I was way under the speed limit."

"Sir, you were doing 63 miles in a 55-mile zone."

"I was not speeding!" insists the man. "Your radar gun must be broken."

At this point, the wife leans over. "It's no use arguing with him, officer," she says apologetically. "He always gets this stubborn when he's been drinking."

19. Who's That?

In darkest night, a policeman watches a staggering man trying in vain to unlock a door.

"Is this your home, after all?" the policeman asks.

"Sure, I'll prove it to you if you help me."

Inside, the man explains, "You see, this is my bedroom. And this is my wife."

"And who is the man next to her?" the policeman wants to know.

"That's me!"

20. Stealing

"You admit having broken into the dress shop four times?" asked the judge.

"Yes," answered the suspect.

"And what did you steal?"

"A dress, Your Honor," replied the suspect.

"One dress?" echoed the judge. "But you admit breaking in four times!"

"Yes, Your Honor," sighed the suspect. "But three times my wife didn't like the color."

21. The Couple's Harrying

A couple, desperate to conceive a child, went to their priest and asked him to pray for them. "I'm going on a sabbatical to Rome," he replied, "and while I'm there, I'll light a candle for you."

When the priest returned three years later, he went to the couple's house and found the wife pregnant, busily attending to two sets of twins. Elated, the priest asked her where her husband was so that he could congratulate him.

"He's gone to Rome," came the harried reply, "to blow that candle out."

22. Don't Worry

The hospital patient was worried, "Are you sure it's pneumonia, Doctor?" he asked. "I've heard of cases where a doctor treated a patient for pneumonia, and he ended up dying of something else."

"Don't worry," said the doctor. "When I treat a patient for pneumonia, he dies of pneumonia."

23. What's the Problem?

After giving a woman a full medical examination, the doctor explained his prescription as he wrote it out. "Take

the green pill with a glass of water when you get up. Take the blue pill with a glass of water after lunch. Then just before going to bed, take the red pill with another glass of water."

"Exactly what is my problem, doctor?" the woman asked.

"You're not drinking enough water."

24. Saints Help?

The cavalryman was galloping down the road, rushing to catch up with his regiment. Suddenly his horse stumbled and pitched him to the ground. In the dirt with a broken leg, terrified of the



approaching enemy, the soldier called out: "All you saints in heaven, help me get up on my horse!"

Then, with superhuman effort, he leaped onto the horse's back and fell off the other side. Once again on the ground, he called to the heavens: "All right, just half of you this time!"

25. Competition

Bill and George were always competing against each other. After one argument over who was better at folding and packing parachutes, they went skydiving to settle the dispute. Bill jumped first, pulled the cord and began to float gently to earth. Then George jumped and pulled his cord, but nothing happened. Next he yanked on the safety cord, but that didn't work either. In a matter of seconds George, falling like a rock, flew past Bill. "So," Bill shouted, ripping off his harness, "you want to race!"

26. What Did the Pope Say?

A small town's only barber was known for his arrogant, negative attitude. When one of his customers mentioned he'd be going to Rome on vacation and hoped to meet the Pope, the barber's reaction was typical. "You?" he said. "Meet the Pope? Don't make me laugh! The Pope sees kings and presidents. What would he want with you?"

A month later, the man returned for another haircut. "How was Rome?" asked the barber.

"Great! I saw the Pope!"

"From St. Peter's Square, I suppose, with the rest of the crowd," said the barber.

"Yes, but then two guards came up, said the Pope wanted to meet me, and took me right into his private apartment in the Vatican."

"Really?" the barber asked. "What did he say?"

"He said, 'Who gave you that lousy haircut?' "

27. The Answer Is on a Wrong Way

A preacher was asked to give a talk at a women's health symposium. His wife asked about his topic, but he was too embarrassed to admit that he had been asked to speak about sex. Thinking quickly, he replied, "I'm talking about sailing."

"Oh, that's nice," said his wife.

The next day, at the grocery store, a young woman who had attended the lecture recognized the minister's wife. "That was certainly an excellent talk your husband gave yesterday," she said. "He really has a unique perspective on the subject." Somewhat surprised, the minister's wife replied, "Gee, funny you should think so. I

mean he's only done it twice. The first time he threw up, and the second time, his hat blew off."

28. What Happened That Night?

A pair of honeymooners checked into the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D. C. That night, as the husband was about to turn off the light, his bride asked, "Do you think this room is bugged?"

"That was a long time ago, sweetheart," he reassured her.

"But what if there's a microphone somewhere? I'd be so embarrassed."

So the groom searched under tables and behind pictures. Then he turned back the rug. Sure enough, there was a funny-looking gizmo in the floor. He took out the screws, got rid of the hardware, and climbed into bed.

The next morning the newlyweds were awakened by a hotel clerk who wanted to know if they had slept well.

"We did," replied the groom. "Why do you ask?"

"It's rather unusual," the clerk answered. "Last night the couple in the room below yours had a chandelier fall on them."

29. Capitalist's Kindness?

On a visit to the United States, a Russian politician met a Russian who had immigrated to this country. "What do you do for a living here?" he asked him.

"My brother, my sister, and I work in a big factory."

"How do these capitalist bosses treat you?"

"Just fine," answered the man. "In fact, if you are walking home from work, the boss picks you up in his big car and drives you to your door. Another time, he treats you to a dinner in expensive restaurants. Sometimes he takes you home for the weekend and buys you presents."

The politician was stunned. "How often does this happen?"

"Well, to me, actually never. But to my sister, several times."

30. Information Agent

A secret agent was sent to Ireland to pick up some sensitive information from an agent named Murphy. His instructions were to walk around town using a code phrase until he met his fellow agent.

He found himself on a desolate country road and finally ran into a farmer.

"Hello," the agent said, "I'm looking for a man named Murphy."

"Well, you're in luck," said the farmer. "As it happens, there's a village right

over the hill where the butcher is named Murphy, the baker is named Murphy, and three widows are named Murphy. Matter of fact, my name is Murphy.”

Aha, the agent thought, here’s my man. So he whispered the secret code: “The sun is shining...the grass is growing...the cows are ready for milking.”

“Oh,” said the farmer, “you’re looking for Murphy the spy—he’s in the village over in the other direction.”

31. What a Good Patience!

An Englishman awaiting the train to Paris at the station restaurant in Calais beckoned to the waiter and asked him in French laden with a heavy British accent, “Do you know the man smoking a pipe and reading a newspaper over by the heater?”

“No, sir. So many of our patrons are just passing through.”

“Well, please call the manager for me then.”

When the manager arrived, the Englishman repeated his question. The manager scrutinized the man by the heater.

“I’m sorry, sir, but I’ve never seen him before.”

With that, the Englishman rose and walked over to the man. “Please accept my apologies, sir, for speaking to you without having been properly introduced,” he said, “but your coat is on fire!”

32. Does the God’s Answer Work?

When the preacher’s car broke down on a country road, he walked to a nearby roadhouse to use the phone. After calling for a tow truck, he spotted his old friend, Frank, drunk and shabbily dressed at the bar. “What happened to you, Frank?” asked the good reverend. “You used to be rich.”

Frank told a sad tale of bad investments that had led to his downfall. “Go home,” the preacher said. “Open your Bible at random, stick your finger on the page and there will be God’s answer.”

Some time later, the preacher bumped into Frank, who was wearing Gucci shoes, sporting a Rolex watch, and had just stepped out of a Mercedes. “Frank,” said the preacher, “I am glad to see things really turned around for you.”

“Yes, preacher, and I owe it all to you,” said Frank. “I opened my Bible, put my finger down on the page and there was the answer—Chapter 11.”

33. The Most Amazing Thing

A guy walks into a bar and orders a beer. “Listen,” he says to the bartender. “If I show you the most amazing thing you’ve ever seen, is my beer on the house?”

"We'll see," says the bartender. So the guy pulls a hamster and a tiny piano out of a bag, puts them on the bar and the hamster begins to play. "Impressive," says the bartender, "but I'll need to see more."

"Hold on," says the man. He then pulls out a bullfrog, and it sings "Old Man River". A patron jumps up from his table and shouts, "That's absolutely incredible! I'll give you \$100 right now for the frog."

"Sold," says the guy. The patron takes the bullfrog and leaves.

"It's none of my business," says the bartender, "but you just gave away a fortune."

"Not really," says the guy. "The hamster is also a ventriloquist."

34. Is That Amusing?

An impassioned minister was visiting a country church and began his address with a stirring reminder: "Everybody in this parish is going to die."

The evangelist was discomfited to notice a man in the front pew who was smiling broadly. "Why are you so amused?" he asked.

"I'm not in this parish," replied the man. "I'm just visiting my sister for the weekend."

35. A Clever Artist

Our family was at an outdoor fair watching a caricature artist at work, when a 50-something woman stopped to watch as well. When she saw that the artist charged \$15 for a color caricature, she gasped, "Fifteen dollars—just to have someone draw my wrinkles!"

The artist turned slowly and studied her face for a moment before replying, "I don't see any wrinkles."

She immediately sat down and had her portrait drawn.

36. Gear Is Not Gear

Having purchased a new car, my friend was chary of hiring a new chauffeur because he had been warned that most chauffeurs exchanged new car parts for old and made some money on the sly. However, since my friend did not know how to drive, he had to engage a chauffeur, but he questioned every movement of the driver.

Once when we were riding together, the car slowed, and then picked up speed.

"What happened?" my friend asked the driver.

"I just changed the gear, sir," the driver replied.

Turning to me, my friend whispered, "I have to fire this fellow. He not only changed the gear but has the audacity to admit it!"

37. A Miser

A farmer who was notoriously miserly called a doctor to attend his sick wife.

"They say you're a skinflint," said the doctor. "Can I be sure of my fee?"

"Whether you kill my wife or cure her, you'll get your money without having to sue," said the farmer.

But the woman died, despite all the doctor's efforts to save her. He duly asked for his payment.

"Did you cure my wife?" asked the man.

"No," admitted the doctor.

"Did you kill her?"

"Certainly not!" the doctor said indignantly.

"Well, then, I owe you nothing."

38. A Computer Scale

While Milgrom waited at the airport to board his plane, he noticed a computer scale that would give your weight and a fortune. He dropped a quarter in the slot, and the computer screen displayed: "You weigh 195 pounds, you're married, and you're on your way to San Diego." Milgrom stood there dumbfounded.

Another man put in a quarter and the computer read: "You weigh 184 pounds, you're divorced, and you're on your way to Chicago."

Milgrom said to the man, "Are you divorced and on your way to Chicago?"

"Yes," came the reply.

Milgrom was amazed. Then he rushed to the men's room, changed his clothes and put on dark glasses. He went to the machine again. The computer read: "You still weigh 195 pounds, you're still married, and you just missed your plane to San Diego!"

39. Too Late to Repent

An angel appears at a faculty meeting and tells the dean that in return for his unselfish and exemplary behavior, the Lord will reward him with his choice of infinite wealth, wisdom, or beauty. Without hesitating, the dean selects infinite wisdom.

"Done!" says the angel, and disappears in a cloud of smoke and a bolt of lightning. Now, all heads turn toward the dean, who sits surrounded by a faint halo of light. At length, one of his colleagues whispers, "Say something."