



程家惠 编著

英语常用单词

幽默读记

Humours For English
Basic Words



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東方出版社

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编写说明

基于现代外语教学研究的最新成果,尤其是二语习得和心理语言学研究的成果,作者为英语教学的听、说、读、写、译的全面训练精心打造了这一本幽默教材。该书以单词在词典中的排列顺序逐个列出有关四千多个常用单词的小幽默。单词在幽默中具有画龙点睛的作用。单词涵盖了中学必学单词和大学英语四级必学单词(单词均注上通用国际音标和基本词意)。既能满足大、中学生及其他各种层次的英语爱好者的学习要求,也便于教师在课堂上开展趣味教学。

鉴于外语教学的自身特点,本书采用的小幽默大多来自国外。内容广泛、生动、健康且富于时代气息,有利于文化素质和思想素质的培养,也是对智慧和悟性的熏陶。另外,本书还考虑到不同学生和不同阶段的学习特点,中学部分多为浅易幽默,大学部分多为有一定深度的幽默;对理解难度较大的幽默都在注解中作适当提示。本书是迄今为止,最为全面、系统、实用的英语单词幽默教材,也是内容最丰富,含量最大的世界经典幽默欣赏读物。需要向读者说明的是,不同的国度具有不同的文化和政治背景,敬请读者明鉴,请勿生搬硬套。

本书编写过程中承蒙潘妮女士、黄国芳女士通读并提出了宝贵意见,在此,作者特致谢意。

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a[ə]/**an**[ən, æn] *art.* (非特指的)一个,一(种)

Peter always likes to say “*a* hour”. One day after school, his teacher ordered him to stay behind and write “*an* hour” for a thousand times.

After finishing what he had been required to do, he added, “Dear Sir, I have finished writing ‘*an* hour’ for *a* thousand times and it took me nearly *a* hour!”

abandon[ə'bændən] *vt.* 抛弃,放弃

The actors and the actresses were having a rehearsal. The director had pointed out the weak points of an actress, who played an **abandoned** lady.

“Please excuse me for my frankness. Your performance isn't true to life. You must devote all yourself to the role by showing the heroine's true feeling. Just imagine, if you were an **abandoned** lady, what would you do?”

“I would find another guy right away,” replied the actress.

ability[ə'biliti] *n.* 能力,才干

The new couple in our neighborhood were entertaining at their first cookout, and the husband was obviously nervous. While the wife scurried cheerfully from kitchen to yard, he tended the fire and peppered her with questions about everything from beverages to utensils. My admiration for her **ability** to cope peaked when a small, dark cloud spattered a few raindrops. “Joan, Joan!” the husband called in panic. “It's starting to

A rain!”

Back came her reassuring answer: “I’ll take care of it in a few minutes, dear.”

able [ˈeɪbl] *adj.* 能够的, 能干的

A lady pleaded for divorce in court. “Oh, Mr. Judge,” she sobbed, “he threw all the plates and dishes at me, and ill-treated me by all means!”

“Then did he say sorry for the behavior after that?”

“No sir, before he was **able** to speak, he had been sent to the hospital by ambulance.”

abnormal [æbˈnɔːməl] *adj.* 反常的, 变态的

This woman, who believed in natural birth, was having these **abnormal** contractions, went to see her Doctor.

“Doc,” she said, “I’m feeling these **abnormal** contractions.”

The Doctor took a listen, and said: “My dear lady, you’re going to be having triplets!”

Baffled, the woman asked: “How can you tell?”

The Doctor responded: “I hear inside: ‘No, you go first!’ ‘No, you go first!’ ‘No, you go first!’”

aboard [əˈbɔːd] *adv.* 在船(飞机、车)上 *prep.* 上(船、飞机、车)

A young ensign had nearly completed his first overseas tour of sea duty when he was given an opportunity to display his ability at getting the ship under way. With a stream of crisp commands, he had the decks buzzing with men. The ship steamed out of the channel and soon the port was far behind. The ensign’s efficiency has been remarkable. In fact, the deck was a buzz with talk that he had set a new record for getting a destroyer under

way. The ensign glowed at his accomplishment and was not all surprised when another seaman approached him with a message from the captain. He was, however, a bit surprised to find that it was a radio message, and he was even more surprised when he read, "My personal congratulations upon completing your underway preparation exercise according to the book and with amazing speed. In your haste, however, you have overlooked one of the unwritten rules. Make sure the Captain is **aboard** before getting underway!"

about['əbaut] *prep.* 关于,在……周围 *adv.* 附近,大约

Mother: Why couldn't you answer any questions for the exam?

Mike: I couldn't do it with so many teachers standing **about** me.

Mother: Why?

Mike: I was afraid that they might peep at my papers.

above['əbʌv] *prep.* 在……上方,超出 *adj.* 上面的 *adv.* 在上面

A cop pulled up two Irish drunks, and asked the first, "What's your name and address?" "I'm Paddy O'Day, of no fixed address." The cop turned to the second drunk, and asked the same question.

"I'm Seamus O'Toole, and I live in the flat **above** Paddy."

abroad[ə'brɔ:d] *adv.* 在国外,往国外

A partner in the law firm where I used to work was expecting an urgent call from a British client. He asked the receptionist to forward the call to the conference room, where several lawyers were discussing the client's case. When the receptionist buzzed the conference room, the partner asked her, "Is it from **abroad**?"

"No, sir!" the startled receptionist replied. "I think it's a gentleman."

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absence [ˈæbsəns] *n.* 缺席

Father: Charles, you have had numerous **absences** from school, why? You are a bad boy!

Charles: No, it isn't true. My teacher often says that he is very happy to have his class with my **absence**.

absent [ˈæbsənt] *adj.* 缺席的, 缺少的

Teacher (taking attendance): Morgan Smith.

Jason: **Absent**.

Teacher: Quiet, Jason. Let Morgan speak for himself!

absolutely [ˈæbsəlu:tli] *adv.* 绝对地

Two men who lived in a small village got into a terrible dispute that they could not resolve. So they decided to talk to the town sage.

The first man went to the sage's home and told his version of what happened. When he finished, the sage said, "You're **absolutely** right."

The next night, the second man called on the sage and told his side of the story. The sage responded, "You're **absolutely** right."

Afterward, the sage's wife scolded her husband, "Those men told you two different stories and you told both they were absolutely right. That's impossible—they can't be **absolutely** right."

The sage turned to his wife and said, "You're **absolutely** right."

absorb [əbˈsɔ:b] *vt.* 全神贯注, 吸收, 吸引

The teacher was trying to tell her students how important it was to be **absorbed** in study.

"Once when Newton was sitting under a tree and fixing his eyes on it, **absorbed** in thinking, an apple fell onto his head, and thus the law of gravity was discovered. Well, children, just imagine, how splendid it is to

be a scientist! To become a scientist, you must study hard.”

A naughty boy wasn't quite pleased with this, “That might be true, but if he had been sitting in the classroom, **absorbed** in his study, he wouldn't have discovered anything.”

abstract [ˈæbstrækt] *adj.* 抽象的 *n.* 摘要, 抽象 *vt.* 摘要, 提炼

Teacher: What's an **abstract** noun, Jane?

Jane: I don't know, madam.

Teacher: What, you don't know! Well. It's the name of a thing which you can think of but cannot touch. Now, give me an example.

Jane: A red-hot poker, madam.

abundant [əˈbʌndənt] *adj.* 充裕的, 丰富的

A ship was on fire on the sea and as it began to sink, water began pouring onto the bottom deck. All the passengers were in great horror and rushed to the top floor desperately. At the moment, the captain's voice came from the loudspeaker, “Ladies and gentlemen, stay calm, please! Fire is nothing. We have **abundant** water to deal with it!”

abuse [əˈbju:z] *v.* 辱骂, 滥用 *n.* 辱骂, 滥用

Mr. Brown was brought to a court. The judge asked him, “Do you often call your dog Smith and often say to it ‘Hey, Smith, you scoundrel!’? You have obviously **abused** Mr. Smith, your neighbor. Do you admit that?” “Well, you have done me wrong, sir,” Brown protested, “What I have done is only to **abuse** my dog.”

academic [ˌækəˈdemik] *adj.* 学术的, 学院的

“Bob, why are you reading detective stories during working hours?” the manager demanded unhappily.

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“Well, manager, it is totally impossible to read *academic* books in such a noisy environment, isn't it?”

academy [ə'kædəmi] *n.* (高等)专科学校, 研究院

A young lawyer had just won his first case. When he got home, he said to his father, an old lawyer, “Father, do you remember that endless case you handled? It only took me one month to end it. Look, I have got the pay for it! Well, I don't understand why it took you so long a time and still you couldn't settle it.”

“My child, do you know how I had afforded your study in the law *academy*?”

accelerate [æk'seləreit] *v.* 加速

My father always loved fast cars. Taking advantage of the empty roads one morning, he *accelerated* down a wide-open stretch. Unfortunately, a young police officer was waiting at the other end, and Dad was flagged down. He greeted the officer with a cheery “Good morning”.

“And a good morning to you, Wing Commander,” replied the officer. “Having trouble taking off?”

accent ['æksənt] *n.* 口音, 重音

Emma's flaming red hair and distinct Irish brogue made her a perfect choice for giving tours of the colonial Scotch-Irish farm at a pioneer museum in Virginia. After one tour, a man pulled her aside. “You were so informed,” he said. “But your *accent* was the best part. How did you perfect it?”

Emma, who was born and raised on the old sod, smiled and said, “Years of practice.”

accept [ək'sept] *vt.* 接受, 认可 *vi.* 承认

During an interview for college enrollment, when my friend was asked, "why do you choose to be a teacher?" she replied, "I wanted to be a great woman when I was a child, and when I was in the high school, I found it too hard to be a great woman, so I decided to be a great man's wife. But now I have little hope of becoming such a wife. Finally I change my mind and decide to be a great man's teacher."

As a result, she was **accepted**.

access ['ækses] *n.* 接近, 通路 *vt.* 接近, 访问

My friend and I were working on her computer when a spider landed on the monitor, while my friend was trying to chase it away, I couldn't help but retort, "Maybe it's trying to **access** its website."

accident ['æksɪdənt] *n.* 事故

Harry and Lloyd were speeding down the road. A police car pulled them over.

"Why on earth were you driving so fast?" the policeman yelled.

"Our brakes are no good, so we wanted to get there before we had an **accident!**"

accidental [,æksɪ'dentl] *adj.* 意外的

Father: It was **accidental** that I came to know your mother.

Son: Then it must have been the same that you came to know me.

accommodate [ə'kɒmədeɪt] *vt.* 供应, 供给 *vi.* 适应

Judge: Henry Ford, the court has found you guilty. We now sentence you 20 years' imprisonment. Do you have anything to say about this?

Henry: I am afraid I can't afford to pay for what is **accommodated** in

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the prison. Would you please find me another place?

accommodation [ə'kɒmədeɪʃn] *n.* 住处, 膳宿

At 10:00 p. m. , the manager of our store announced over the intercom that we were closing and asked that the customers come to the register to be checked out. At 10:20, a few dawdlers still remained, and the manager came on the intercom again: "Attention shoppers! Our store is now closed. If you didn't make it out before the doors were locked, there are sleeping **accommodations** in the back. Thank you and good-night."

The stragglers were at the register in less than a minute.

accompany [ə'kʌmpəni] *vt.* 陪伴, 伴奏

The wedding witness asked the groom, "Do you really love the bride?"

"Yes, sure," said the groom.

"Bride, are you willing to **accompany** your husband forever?"

"No, I can't. I can't follow him from door to door to deliver mails."

accomplish [ə'kɒmplɪʃ] *vt.* 完成, 达到, 实现

We visited our son during his boot-camp training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. While we were there, he took us for a grand tour of the base. At each intersection, he would stop and look both ways before crossing the street. Impressed, I said, "The Air Force has **accomplished** in a few short weeks what I couldn't do in 18 years."

"Mom," he replied, "they don't use the same language you did!"

accord [ə'kɔ:d] *v.* 一致, 符合 *n.* 符合

The priest took Paddy aside. "I've been told that you went to a football match last Sunday morning instead of coming to mass."

“Father, what you have just said doesn't **accord** with the fact, and what's more, I've got the fish to prove it.”

accordance [ə'kɔ:dəns] *n.* 一致, 和谐

Judge: Is what the inspector has said in **accordance** with the whole process of your committing the offense?

Defendant: Well, not completely. But the method of stealing that the inspector has described is very helpful to me.

according [ə'kɔ:diŋ] *adv.* 依照

My small town optometry practice was two years old when I bought out the practice of a retiring optometrist. I mailed reminders to all his patients: “**According** to my records, it has been several years since your last exam. Hope to see you soon.”

One of my cards came back from a local barber whom I had never patronized. On the back he had written: “**According** to my records, you ain't ever had a haircut.”

accordingly [ə'kɔ:diŋli] *adv.* 因此, 从而

A man was taken to court for stealing an item from a store. The man said to the judge, “Your Honor, I'm a Christian. I've become a new man. But I have an old nature also. It was not my new man who did wrong. It was my old man.”

The judge responded, “Since it was the old man who broke the law, we'll sentence him to sixty days in jail. And since the new man was an accomplice, we'll give him thirty days, too. **Accordingly**, I sentence you both ninety days in jail.”

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account [ə'kaunt] *n.* 账目, 计算, 说明 *vi.* 说明, 总计有

Breathlessly, a man rushed to the lottery office. "Excuse me, when can I know the outcome?"

"Next week."

"Oh, my God! My office will have the **accounts** audited tomorrow."

accountant [ə'kauntənt] *n.* 会计

Three engineers and three **accountants** are traveling by train to a conference. At the station, the three **accountants** each buy tickets and watch as the three engineers buy only a single ticket. "How are three people going to travel on only one ticket?" asks an **accountant**. "Watch and you'll see," answers an engineer.

They all board the train. The **accountants** take their respective seats but all three engineers cram into a restroom and close the door behind them. Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the restroom door and says, "Ticket, please." The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on.

The **accountants** see this and agree it is quite a clever idea. So after the conference, the **accountants** decide to copy the engineers on the return trip and save some money (being clever with money, and all!).

When they get to the station, they buy a single ticket for the return trip. To their astonishment, the engineers buy no tickets at all.

"How are you going to travel without a ticket?" says one perplexed **accountant**. "Watch and you'll see," answers an engineer.

When they board the train the three **accountants** cram into a restroom and the three engineers cram into another one nearby. The train departs. Shortly afterward, one of the engineers leaves his restroom and walks over to the restroom where the **accountants** are hiding. He knocks on the door

and says, "Ticket please."

accumulate [ə'kju:mjuleit] *v.* 积聚

A young man asked an old rich man how he made his money. The old guy fingered his worsted wool vest and said, "Well, son, it was 1932, the depth of the Great Depression. I was down to my last nickel. I invested that nickel in an apple. I spent the entire day polishing the apple and, at the end of the day, I sold the apple for ten cents. The next morning, I invested those ten cents in two apples. I spent the entire day polishing them and sold them at 5:00 p. m. for 20 cents. I continued this system for a month, by the end of which I'd **accumulated** a fortune of \$1.37. Then my wife's father died and left us two million dollars."

accuracy ['ækjʊərəsi] *n.* 精确性, 准确度

A man who always stressed the great importance of **accuracy** was once asked, "When do you usually fall asleep at night?"

"Two seconds to eleven!" he replied.

accurate ['ækjʊrɪt] *adj.* 准确的, 精确的

Lady: Hey, Jimmy, your mother has got very beautiful eyelashes. Do you know the **accurate** number of the hairs of the eyelashes your mom really has?

Jimmy: Zero.

Lady: Why?

Jimmy: Artificial!

accuse [ə'kju:z] *vt.* 控告

Murderer: What's the best way for me to avoid being **accused**?

Lawyer: Commit suicide!

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accustomed [ə'kʌstəmd] *adj.* 习惯的

A woman called me at the front desk of the hotel where I was working and asked for a 5:05 wake-up call the next morning. Of course, I agreed.

"Thank you," she said, "and would you mind calling back two more times, nine minutes apart? I am **accustomed** to having a snooze alarm."

ache [eik] *vi.* 觉得疼痛 *n.* 疼痛

Doctor: How often does your head **ache**?

Patient: Every five minutes.

Doctor: How long does it **ache** each time?

Patient: Fifteen minutes at least.

achieve [ə'tʃi:v] *vt.* 完成, 达到

Barbara Walters did a story on gender roles in Kuwait several years before the Gulf War. She noted then that women customarily walked about 10 feet behind their husbands. She returned to Kuwait recently and observed that the men now walked several yards behind their wives.

Ms. Walters approached one of the women and said, "This is marvelous. Can you tell the free world just what enabled women here to **achieve** this marvelous reversal of roles?"

"Land mines," said the Kuwaiti woman.

achievement [ə'tʃi:vmənt] *n.* 成就, 功绩

Bob was applying for a job at an accounting agency. So he filled out the resume and sent it. When the boss of the accounting agency read the letter, everything was sounding good. When he got to the part that asks, "What are your **achievements**?" Bob answered, "I may already be a winner of 21,000,000 dollars."

acid [ˈæsid] *n.* 酸

Wiener once went into a pharmacy and asked for some acetylsalicylic **acid**.

“Do you mean aspirin, sir?” asked the pharmacist.

“Yes,” said Wiener, “I never can remember that name.”

acknowledge [əkˈnɒlɪdʒ] *vt.* 承认, 报偿

“You are a cheater!” the attorney shouted at his counterpart.

“You are a liar!” retorted the counterpart.

The judge stroke at the table with the little wood hammer and then said coldly, “Well, now, since both sides have **acknowledged** their own status, let’s go on with the case!”

acquaintance [əˈkweɪntəns] *n.* 熟人

A young composer wanted to ask a well-known composer for advice about his music piece. When he was playing it, the well-known composer took off his hat and put it on again and again. The young man was greatly puzzled and asked, “Do you feel hot in this room?”

“No, I have got the habit of taking off my hat whenever I meet my old **acquaintances**.”

acquainted [əˈkweɪntəntɪd] *adj.* 知晓的

—Were you **acquainted** with the defendant?

—Yes, sir.

—Before or after he died?

acquire [əˈkwaɪə] *vt.* 获得, 学到

Young man: What’s the best way to **acquire** the ability of writing poems?