

英语笑话

English Jokes

英汉对照

王蓝 译



安徽科学技术出版社

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译 序

学习英语的人,可能都有这样的体会:当自己学习了一些课文,积累了一些单词,通晓了一些语法,于是就不觉技痒,希望能找到一块“用武之地”,这块“用武之地”就是正好适合自己消化能力的原文作品。

可这样的“用武之地”不易得。找得不适当,或是生吞活剥,难解其意;或是勉为其难,味同嚼蜡。数次碰壁,你就会偃旗息鼓,无心恋战了。

好作品不可多得,而浅显易懂的好作品更难求。

如果您已经掌握了英语的基本语法,并已具有 2000~2500 个词汇的储备量,那么您可以把这本书读下去。读下去,您会发现,您竟能通晓、理解语言那么生动、情节那么有趣、内容那么深刻丰富的故事,于是——

您将信心倍增。

“山阴道上,应接不暇。”而您竟亲自拾级而上,竟一步一步地攀登上去了。

不要倚仗译文,不要倚靠手杖,不要先听别人介绍景色。您是自己读的,您是自己攀登上去的,您是自己在领略风光的。译者是另一个读者,是您的旅伴。在您登山歇脚时,则不妨听听您同伴的领会与感受,互相印证,或可助兴,但何必一定要有共识?

译 者



THEY AGREED

Student : But I don't think I deserve an absolute zero.

Professor : Neither do I, but it is the lowest mark that I can give you.

WOOL

Teacher : What do we get from sheep?

Boy : Wool.

Teacher : And what do we make from wool?

Boy : I don't know.

Teacher : Well, what is your coat made of?

Boy : My coat was made from father's old coat.

A SHORT COMPOSITION

One day a teacher was giving a lesson to a class of boys. She told them to write a composition about the last football match. One of the boys wrote a few words and put down his pen. The teacher asked him : "Why aren't you writing?" The boy answered : "I've finished." Then the teacher took his exercise book and read : "Rain. No play. "

他们意见一致

大学生：可我认为，我不该完全是零分。
教授：我也是这么想，可是它是我能给你打的最低的分数。

羊毛

教师：我们从羊身上能得到什么？
孩子：羊毛。
教师：羊毛可以做什么呀？
孩子：我不知道。
教师：那么，你的大衣是什么做的？
孩子：我的大衣是爸爸的旧大衣做的。

一篇短作文

一天一位老师给一个班学生上课。她要他们写一篇记述最近一次足球比赛的作文。一个学生写了几个字就把笔放下了。老师问他：“你干吗不写了？”这学生回答道：“我写完了。”于是老师拿起他的本子来看，只见上面写着：“下雨。未赛。”



THE PAINTER AND THE BANKER

A rich London banker asked a well-known painter to do a little thing for his album. The painter did it and asked one hundred pounds.

"Why," cried the banker, "it took you only five minutes to do it!" "Yes," answered the painter, "but it took me twenty years to learn how to do it in five minutes."

A GOOD LESSON

It was Sunday. The trains were crowded. A gentleman was walking along the platform looking for a place. In one of the cars he saw a vacant seat. But a small suit-case was lying on it and a stout gentleman was sitting next to it.

"Is this seat vacant?" asked the gentleman.

"No, it is my friend's," answered the gentleman. "He is just coming — this is his suit-case."

"Well," said the gentleman, "I'll sit here till he comes." Five minutes later the train started, but nobody came.

"Your friend is late," said the gentleman. "He has missed his train, but he need not lose his suit-case." And with these words he took the suit-case and threw it out of the window.

The stout gentleman got up and tried to catch the suit-case, but it was too late. It was his suit-case and he had taken a second seat for his own comfort.

画家和银行家

一个富有的伦敦银行家请一个有名的画家为他的相册画点小玩意儿。画家作完后向他要 100 镑钱。

“什么？”银行家惊叫起来，“你才花了 5 分钟时间！”“是的，”画家回答道，“可是为了要学会能在 5 分钟内画成这样的画却花了我 20 年的时间。”

一个很好的教训

这是星期天。火车上乘客很多。一个绅士沿着站台一路在找座位。在一节车厢里他见到了一个空座位，但是有一只小提箱放在座位上，一个很胖的绅士坐在提箱旁边。

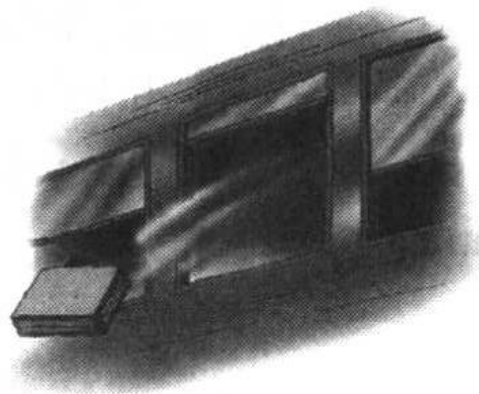
“这座位空吗？”绅士问道。

“不，这是朋友的座位，”那绅士回答说，“他就要来的——这是他的小提箱。”

“那么，”这绅士说，“我先坐着，他来了再说。”5 分钟后火车开动了，但是并没有人来。

“你的朋友迟到了，”这绅士说，“他赶不上火车了，可他不该把提箱也丢了。”说着，他拿起小提箱，把它抛出窗外。

那个胖绅士赶紧站起，想抓住那个小提箱，可是太迟了。这是他的小提箱，他是想占两个位置，让自己舒服些。



AT A RESTAURANT

"Here, waiter, it seems to me that this fish is not so fresh as the fish you served us last Sunday."

"Pardon, sir, it is the very same fish."

WHY WAS SHE ANGRY?

A young man was in love with a beautiful girl. One day she said to him, "It is my birthday tomorrow." "Oh," said the young man, "I'll send you roses, one rose for each year of your life."

The same evening he went to a florist's. As he knew that the girl was twenty-two years old, he paid for twenty-two roses and asked the florist to send them to the girl the next day.

The florist knew the young man very well as he had often bought flowers in his shop before. When the young man left the shop, the florist thought:

"This young man is a very good customer. I think that my price was too high. I'll send ten more roses."

He did so. The next morning thirty-two roses were sent to the girl. When the young man came to see her she didn't want to speak to him. And he never knew why she was so angry with him.

在饭馆里

“招待员,我觉得这次的鱼不如上星期六你给我们吃的那条新鲜。”

“请原谅,先生,这可是同一条鱼呀。”

她为什么生气

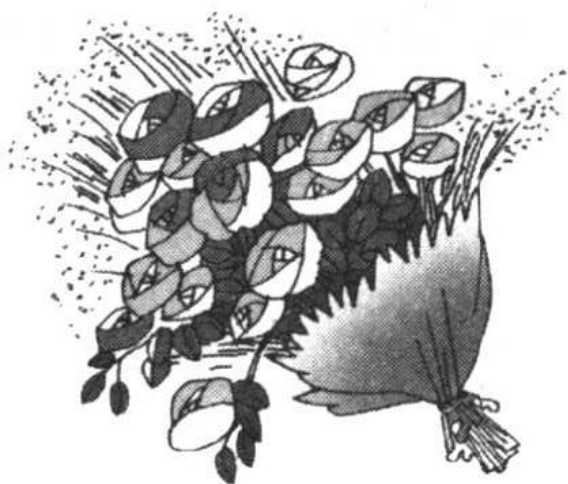
一个年轻人爱上了一位美丽的姑娘。一天她对他说:“明天是我的生日。”“啊,”年轻人说,“我将给你送去玫瑰花,配你的岁数,一岁一朵。”

当天晚上他到花店去了。他知道这姑娘是 22 岁,他就付了 22 朵花的钱,要花店主人在第二天把花送给那位姑娘。

花店主人很熟悉这年轻人,因为年轻人以前经常在他的花店里买花。年轻人离开花店时,花店主人想:

“这年轻人是个好主顾。我觉得我的花价是太高了。我就多送 10 朵玫瑰花吧。”

他这么做了。第二天早上 32 朵玫瑰花就送到姑娘那儿去了。当年轻人去看她时,她不愿理他。他怎么也弄不明白,为什么她生他的气。



HE LIKED THE RAIN

"The harder it rains, the better I like it."

"You must be an optimist."

"No, I am an umbrella seller."

RATHER LATE

It was a dark night. A man was riding a bicycle without a lamp. He came to a crossroad and did not know which way to turn. He noticed a pole with something white which looked like a sign. Climbing to the top of the pole he lit a match and read:

"Wet Paint."

THE KING AND THE FORTUNETELLER

A cruel king went to a fortuneteller and asked her, "On what day shall I die?"

She answered him that he would die on a holiday.

"Why are you so sure of that?" asked the king.

"Any day," she answered, "on which you die will be a holiday."

他喜欢雨天

“雨下得愈大，我愈喜欢。”

“你该是个乐天派。”

“不，我是卖雨伞的。”

太 晚 了

那是一个漆黑的夜晚。一个人骑着自行车，没有灯。他来到一个十字路口，不知该怎么走好。他看见一根杆子上挂着一块白色的好像是招牌似的东西。他爬上杆顶，擦亮火柴一看，上面写着：“油漆未干。”

国王和命相家

一个暴君去问命相家：“我将在哪天死？”
她回答他说，他将在节日死。

“为什么你能如此肯定？”国王问。

她回答道：“你在哪天死，哪天就将成为节日。”



THE RESULT OF A PROMISE

Father : I promised to buy you a car if you passed your examination, and you have failed. What were you doing last term?

Son : I was learning to drive a car.

AN AWKWARD SITUATION

One of the guests turned to a man by his side and criticized the woman who was singing.

"What a terrible voice! Do you know who she is?"

"Yes," was the answer. "She's my wife."

"Oh, I beg your pardon. Of course her voice isn't bad, but the song is very bad. I wonder who wrote that awful song."

"I did," was the answer.

WHO FOUND AMERICA?

Teacher : Here is a map. Who can show us America?

Nick goes to the map and finds America on it.

Teacher : Now, tell me, boys, who found America?

Boys : Nick.

许诺的效果

父亲：我答应过你，如果你考及格，我就给你买一辆小汽车，可是你没及格。上学期你究竟在干啥？

儿子：我在学开小汽车。

尴尬的处境

一个客人转向他身旁的一个人，批评正在演唱的女人。

“多糟糕的嗓子！你知道她是谁吗？”

“知道，”那人回答，“她是我的妻子。”

“啊，请原谅，当然，她嗓子不坏，可是那歌糟透了，真不知道那难听的歌是谁写的。”

“是我写的，”回答说。

谁发现了美洲

教师：这儿是一张地图，谁能给大家指出美洲来？

尼克走到地图旁，在上面找到了美洲。

教师：好，孩子们，告诉我，是谁发现美洲的？

孩子们：是尼克。

WHAT THEY WANTED

A rich gentleman taking a walk over his estate before breakfast came face to face with a poor man whom he did not know.

“Good morning, sir,” said the poor man, “you have come out very early this morning.”

“I came out to see if I could get an appetite for breakfast. But what are you doing here?” said the gentleman suspiciously.

“You see, sir,” said the poor man, “I just came out to see if I could get a breakfast for my appetite.”

WHICH IS BETTER?

“It must be terrible for an opera singer to realize that he can never sing again.”

“Yes, but it’s much more terrible if he doesn’t realize it.”

POLITENESS

Mother : Which apple do you want, Tom?

Tom : The biggest one.

Mother : Why, Tom, you should be polite and take the little one.

Tom : Well, Mamma, should I lie just to be polite?

他们各自需要什么

一个有钱的绅士早饭前在庄园外边散步，迎面碰上了一个他不认识的穷人。

“早安，先生，”这穷人说，“今天早上你出来得很早。”

“我出来走走，看能不能开开胃，好吃下点早饭。可你在这里干什么？”绅士狐疑地说道。

“你知道，先生，”穷人说，“我可是出来走走，看能不能弄一顿早饭来填饱我的胃。”

哪种好些？

“对于一个歌剧演员来说，当他意识到自己再也不能歌唱时，是够可怕的。”

“哦，如果他不能意识到这一点，那就更可怕了。”

礼貌

母亲：汤姆，你要哪个苹果？

汤姆：那个最大的。

母亲：怎么，汤姆，你得懂礼貌，拿个小的。

汤姆：喔，妈妈，懂礼貌我就得撒谎吗？