

世界经典故事系列

主编 章晋新 肖云南

# 世界幽默故事精选

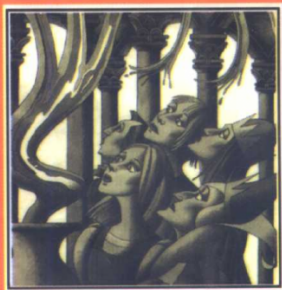
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## 世界幽默故事精选(二)

*Selected Humorous Stories*

*of the World ( II )*

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Shijie Youmo Gushi Jingxuan

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主编 章晋新 肖云南

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## 前 言

近年来,随着我国对外交往日益增多,越来越多的英语爱好者已不满足于仅仅学会英语语音、语法、词汇和一些基本句型。不少人经过与英美人的交往,逐步认识到语言既是文化的载体,又是文化的一部分,两者水乳交融,密不可分。要真正学好一门语言,不仅要掌握和运用该语言,而且还要大量地接触、认识并了解该语言的文化,才能不断增强对该语言文化差异的敏感性,逐步提高对不同文化的比较能力,最终达到提高文化素质,得体地进行语言交际的目的。

我国的英语爱好者,要达到语言交际的目的,光靠小学、中学和大学所学的课本知识,是远远不够的,一定要大量地感受英语、学习英语、实践英语,逐步提高英语水平。为此,我们特为大中专学生编写了这套世界经典故事系列。我们坚信广大英语爱好者通过对这些故事的学习,不仅能扩大知识面,开阔视野,还能欣赏到世界文化宝库中的真、善、美,陶冶情操,提高自身的人文素养。

本系列故事题材多样,均选自中外原版图书。一般是世界上流传甚广,深受人民群众喜爱的民间、幽默、寓言、成语、侦探和科幻故事。用常用英语5000词汇进行改写、翻译,并编辑成文字流畅,通俗易懂,集思想性、知识性和趣味性于一体的有声读物。

为便于读者阅读理解、消化吸收、增进听说能力、培

养翻译技能,我们在每个故事后编写了三种练习。练习一:理解题,旨在训练读者阅读与听力,帮助读者理解故事大意和细节;练习二:翻译,从故事原文中选出几个较难的句子,要求读者译成中文;练习三:讨论题,旨在训练读者理解故事中较深层的意义,如:作者的态度、观点,并训练读者的英语口语表达能力。

《世界幽默故事精选》(二)由章晋新、肖云南担任主编,谭琼琳、李正华和罗庆湘为副主编;参加本书编写工作的还有(按姓氏笔画为序)王开颜、王湘玲、邓媛、刘敏娟、李颜、张珂、陈颖、杨艳、杨常倩、胡小华、胡志雯、胡凌、路茜;由贺国强绘制插图;特聘美籍专家 Marilyn Kress 和加拿大语言学博士 David L. E. Watt 进行审阅;由美籍专家 Marilyn Kress 女士、R. Lloyd Kress 先生灌制录音带。特在此表示感谢。

因编者水平有限,疏漏之处,敬请指正。

编 者

1998年2月于湖南大学

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## 1 Dave's First Customer

Soon after Dave left college, one of his uncles, who was rich and had no children of his own, died and left Dave a lot of money, so he decided to set up his own *real estate* (1. n. 房地产) agency.



He found a nice office, bought some new furniture, and moved in. One day, he had only been there

for a few hours when he heard someone coming towards the door of his office.

“It’s my first customer!” he thought. He quickly picked up the telephone and pretended to be very busy answering an important call from someone in New York who wanted to buy a big and expensive house in the country.

The man knocked at the door while this was going on, then he came in and waited politely for the agent to finish his conversation. Then he said to him, “I’m from the telephone company, and I was sent here to connect your telephone.”

## *Exercises*

### **I . Comprehension Questions :**

1. How did Dave get money to set up his real estate agency?
2. What happened after he had been in his office for a few hours?
3. What did he think, and then do about this?
4. What did the man do?
5. And what did the man say when Dave finished talking?

### **II . Translation from English into Chinese :**

1. One day, he had only been there for a few hours

when he heard someone coming towards the door of his office.

2. He quickly picked up the telephone and pretended to be very busy answering an important call from someone in New York who wanted to buy a big and expensive house in the country.

### **III . Discussion Topics :**

1. Why did Dave pretend to be very busy answering an important call?
2. What would you do if others find that you are telling a lie?

## *Key to the Exercises*

### **I . Comprehension Questions :**

1. He inherited it from one of his uncles.
2. he heard someone coming towards the door of his office.
3. "It's my first customer!" he thought. Then he quickly picked up the telephone and pretended to be very busy answering an important call.
4. The man knocked at the door while this was going on, then he came in and waited politely for the agent to finish his conversation.
5. He said to him, "I'm from the telephone company, and I was sent here to connect your telephone."

### **II . Translation from English into Chinese :**

1. 一天, 他刚到几小时, 就听见有人朝他办公室走来。
2. 他很快抓起话筒, 并假装正忙着回答一个想在他那里买一套又大又贵的住房的人从纽约打来的电话。

## 2 Neither Do I

The college had a very good football team, and its best player was a student who always had trouble in school. Then one year the dean of the college said that the player would have to leave because he had cheated on an exam. The football coach immediately went to the dean to try to persuade him to let the student stay in school. The dean showed him two answer papers. "This one is Susan's paper. She's the best student in the class," he said. "And this one is your football player's. They're exactly the same. The football player sat at the next desk, and just copied from her."

"But maybe she copied from him," the coach said.  
"You can't prove it was the other way."

"Look at his," the dean said, "Susan didn't know the answer to this question, so she wrote, 'I don't know'. And your football player wrote, 'Neither do I.'"

## *Exercises*

### **I . Comprehension Questions :**

1. Why did the dean want the student to leave the college?
2. Why did the coach want him to stay?
3. What did the dean show the coach?
4. What did the coach suggest then?
5. And what did the dean answer?

### **II . Translation from English into Chinese :**

1. "But maybe she copied from him," the coach said. "You can't prove it was the other way."
2. "And your football player wrote, 'Neither do I.'"

### **III . Discussion Topics :**

1. What word would you choose to describe the football player's behavior in the story?
2. What would you do if you are asked to help one of your friends during a test?



## *Key to the Exercises*

### **I. Comprehension Questions:**

1. Because the student had cheated on an exam.
2. Because he was the best player on the college football team.
3. The dean showed the coach two answer papers.
4. "But maybe she copied from him," the coach said. "You can't prove it was the other way."
5. "Look at this," the dean said. "Susan didn't know the answer to this question, so she wrote, 'I don't know.' And your football player wrote: 'Neither do I.'"

### **II. Translation from English into Chinese:**

1. "可是,说不定是苏珊抄他的呢,"教练说。"您不能肯定就是他抄苏珊的。"
2. "而你的队员写道: '我也不会做。'"