

# 英语学习之友

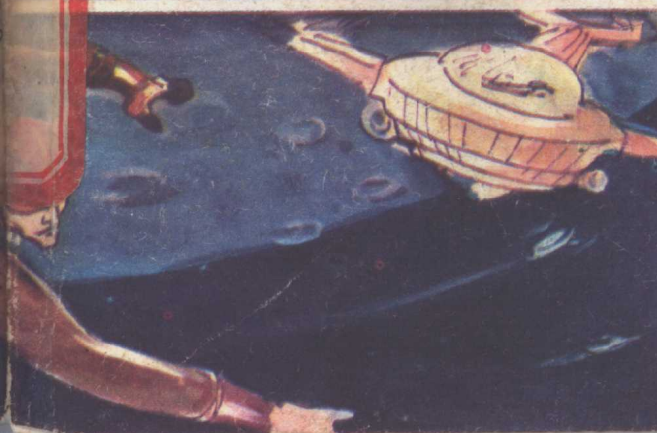
BASIC ENGLISH READER

上

胡国利

李惠康

未来出版社



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吴雪薇      审 校

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1985 西 安

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未来出版社出版

(西安北大街131号)

陕西省新华书店发行 七二二六工厂印刷

787×1092毫米 开本1/32 印张7 字数147,000

1986年6月第1版 1986年6月第2次印刷

印数: 1—16,000

统一书号: 7303·83 定价: 1.15元

## 前 言

随着科学技术、教育事业的蓬勃发展,随着我国的国际交往日益频繁,学习外语者与日俱增。对我们从事外语教学工作者来说,为了配合和加强基础外语教学,特别是为中学生、中专生、从事基础英语教学的教师、社会上外语自学者及广大英语爱好者积极提供外语学习和课外阅读参考资料,已成为刻不容缓的事情。

从我国学生学习外语的实际出发,我们从外语教学实践中深深体会到,要学好一种外国语,不仅要牢牢掌握一种语言的基本功,更重要的是扩大学生的视野,不断丰富学生各方面的基础知识。为此,我们精选并编辑了这套英语注释读物《英语学习之友》。

本书取材于国外各种书刊:其中有精选寓言、幽默小品、童话故事、微型小说、科普读物、报刊文摘、名人传记等各种体裁。文章短小精悍,语言生动;内容由易到难,深入浅出;富有知识性,趣味性。本书对于中学生、中专生、大学一、二年级学生和社会上英语自学者及基础英语教学的教师不失为学习之友,也可作为视听理解辅助教材。

本套书分为上、中、下三册,各册在内容编排方面相互衔接力求系统性强。书中对于人名、地名、背景知识、常用词组及习惯用法和少数难句作了比较详细的注释。除正文和注释之外,还配有理解题和思考题,以便加深对原文的理解;为了使读者进一步掌握某些英语常用词和习惯用法,每十篇后还附有选择填空练习题。书后附有生词表及单元练习答

案。上册还附有参考译文。本书还配有在中国任教的两位英语文教专家录制的磁带。

在本书编辑过程中,承蒙刘德军老师的大力协助和指导,在此深表感谢。西安外国语学院聘请的文教专家 Pat Burn 和 Janet Stewart 在百忙中,也对本书的编辑工作给予关心和指导,在此一并致谢。

鉴于我们的水平有限,本书选材远非完美,翻译和注释亦难免有错误之处,恳切希望得到批评指正。

编 者

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## 1. Too Clever

There was once a boy who thought himself very clever! He took two cakes in his hand and told his younger brother that there were three cakes. "But I see only two cakes in your hand," said the younger. "How can it be?" said the elder brother.

"There are three cakes here. This is number one and this is number two; one and two make three, you foolish boy!" The clever brother was thus arguing and teasing the smaller one, when their father came on the scene and inquired into their dispute<sup>2</sup>. "Very well," said the father. "Give me cake number one and give your brother cake number two. You may eat the remaining one!"

### Notes

1. ...who thought himself very clever. (从前, 有一个男孩) 自以为很聪明。句中 very clever 是形容词作宾语补足语。
2. ..., when their father came on the scene and inquired into their dispute. (正当这个聪明的哥哥如此狡辩和取笑弟弟时), 父亲正好走过来看到了, 他问了问他们俩争吵的原因。when 是等立连词, 其前面通常有逗号隔开, 与从属连词的



when 位置不同。本句也可以写成 when the clever brother...their father...

### Questions

1. How many cakes did the elder brother have?
2. What did he tell his younger brother as he held the two cakes in his hand?
3. How did he try to trick his brother?
4. How did the father punish his elder son for his teasing?
5. What does the story teach us?

## 2. I Remember Anne

She wasn't the best player on the women's soccer team. For one thing<sup>1</sup>, she was too short. Some of the rest of the team members were taller, and they could run faster and kick harder. She was younger than most of the other players too. She hadn't had as much experience<sup>2</sup>. But Anne had something that made her the most valuable member of the team: she believed that the team could win. She never gave up hope<sup>3</sup>, and she never lost faith<sup>4</sup>. She wouldn't allow the team to get demoralized<sup>5</sup>. The results were surprising. The team won and won and won. They won against bigger, better, more experienced teams. Determination and persistence

and strong belief pay off<sup>6</sup>. That is what I learned from Anne.

### Notes

1. for one thing, ... 一则, ..... 首先.....
2. She hadn't had as much experience, 她谈不上有什么经验。句中的 as much 相当于 'what really amounts to that', '实际上', '真正的'。
3. She never gave up hope 她从不失望。  
to give up hope 失望
4. She never lost faith. 她从不丧失信心。  
to lose faith in... 对...失去信心
5. She wouldn't allow the team to get demoralized. 她不允许队员们情绪低落。to get demoralized 是动词不定式短语, 作宾语补足语。get 即 become 之意。
6. Determination and persistence and strong belief pay off. 决心, 毅力和坚定的信念是她们取胜的关键, 句中 pay off 有报偿, 使人得到的意思。

### Questions

1. How was Anne different from other women on the soccer team?
2. Why was she the most valuable member of the team?

3. What did the author learn from Anne?
4. Give some examples that show determination and persistence and strong belief pay off?

### 3. At a Border Station

A train stopped at a French border station. The passengers opened their trunks, and waited for the inspection of their things. One of the passengers in a first-class carriage<sup>2</sup> took a lot of boxes of cigarettes out of his trunk and wanted to put all of them into his pockets.

When his pockets were already full of<sup>3</sup> cigarettes and he could not put any more into them, he said to another man who was at the window.

"Will you please take some of these boxes and put them into your pockets? "

"Why don't you leave them in your trunk? " asked the other passenger.

" Because I don't want to pay duty on them, " answered the first passenger.

"All right, " said the passenger at the window. "Give them to me. But I must tell you now that I shall not return them to you."

"Why? "

"Because I am a French Customs officer."

### Notes

1. to wait for... 等待……; 等候……
2. first-class carriage, 头等 (一等, 一级) 车厢
3. to be full of... 充满……; 装满……
4. to pay duty on sth. 上……税; 给……上税

### Questions

1. Where did the story take place?
2. Why did the passengers open their trunks?
3. Why did one of the passengers take his cigarettes out of his trunk and put them into his pockets?
4. What did he do when his pockets were full of cigarettes?
5. Did the other passenger help him with the cigarettes?
6. Why wouldn't the other man return the cigarettes to him?

## 4. A Good Lesson

It was Sunday. The trains were crowded. A gentleman was walking along the platform looking for a place<sup>1</sup>. 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 stout 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<sup>2</sup> he took the suit-case and threw it out of the window.

The stout gentleman got up and tried to catch the suit-case<sup>3</sup>, but it was too late. It was his suit-case and he had taken a second seat for his own comfort.<sup>4</sup>

### Notes

1. ... looking for a place 现在分词短语, 在句中作 was walking的目的状语。to look for sth. 寻找某东西
2. ...with these words... 介词短语作表示伴随性动作的状语。全句译文: 说着, 他就提起这只手提箱从窗口扔了出去。
3. to try to do sth. 设法(企图)干某事
4. He had taken a second seat for his own comfort. 他为了自己舒服而多占了一个座位。

## Questions

1. What was the gentleman doing walking along the platform?
2. Did he find a vacant seat?
3. What did the stout gentleman answer when the first gentleman wanted to sit down?
4. Why did the first man throw the suit-case out of the window?
5. Do you think the stout gentleman told the truth when he said the vacant seat was his friend's?
6. Have you ever taken a second seat for your own comfort? Or have you ever seen someone else take a second seat? Is it right to do so?

## 5. The Doctor's Advice

Once an old gentleman went to see a doctor. The doctor examined him and said, "Medicine won't help you. You must have a complete rest. Go to a quiet country place for a month, go to bed early, drink milk, walk a lot and smoke just one cigar a day."

"Thank you very much," said the old gentleman.

“I shall do everything you say.”

A month later the gentleman came to the doctor again. “How do you do!” said the doctor. “I am very glad to see you. You look much younger.”

“Oh, doctor,” said the gentleman, “I feel quite well now. I had a good rest. I went to bed early, I drank a lot of milk, and I walked a lot. Your advice certainly helped me. But you told me to smoke one cigar a day, and that one cigar a day almost killed me at first. It's no joke to start smoking at my age<sup>1</sup>.”

### Notes

1. It's no joke to start smoking at my age.

象我这么大年龄开始学抽烟可不是闹着玩的。

to be no joke to do sth. 干某事不是开玩笑的  
It 是形式主语，真正主语是后面的动词不定式短语 to start smoking at my age.

### Questions

1. Why did the doctor say “Medicine won't help you” to the patient?
2. What did the doctor suggest that the patient (should) do?
3. How did the patient feel when he came back to the doctor a month later?

4. Why did the doctor advise him to smoke just one cigar a day?
5. How did the patient feel when he started smoking one cigar a day?

## 6. Passing Messages

My husband, Michael<sup>1</sup>, and I were at a restaurant with his boss, a rather stern old man. When Michael began a tale, I was sure he had told it before. I gave him a kick under the table. There was no response, so I gave him another poke. Still the story went on. Suddenly he stopped, grinned and said, "Oh, but I have told you this one before, haven't I?" We all chuckled and changed the subject.

Later, on the dance floor, I asked my husband why it had taken him so long to get my message.<sup>2</sup>

"What do you mean?" he replied. "I cut off the story<sup>3</sup> as soon as you kicked me."

"But I kicked you twice, and it still took you a while to stop."

Suddenly we realized what had happened. Sheepishly we returned to our table. The boss smiled and said, "Not to worry<sup>4</sup>. After the second one I figured it wasn't for me. so I passed it along."



## Notes

1. Michael n. ['maɪkl] 迈克尔 (男)
2. ..., I asked my husband why it had taken him so long to get my message....., 我问丈夫为什么对我的信息反应那么迟缓。  
It takes sb. sometime to do sth. 干某事化某人多长时间。  
eg. How long will it take me to get to the station? 到火车站得化我多长时间?  
It'll take you half an hour to get there.  
到那里得化你半小时 (时间)。
3. I cut off the story...  
(你刚一踢), 我就停住讲故事了。to cut off...中断; 切断
4. Not to worry. 没关系, 不用担心。这是Don't worry的省略形式。

## Questions

1. What was Michael's boss like?
2. What did the wife do when Michael began a tale?
3. Why did it take so long for Michael to get his wife's message?
4. What did they realize had happened?
5. How many pokes did the boss get? How