

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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英 语 有 声 读 物



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Selected Humorous Stories of the World(I)

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*Selected Humorous Stories
of the World (I)*

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Shijie Youmo Gushi Jingxuan

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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,提高自身文化素养。

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,旨在训练读者阅读和听力,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,并训练学生的英语口语表达能力。

《世界幽默故事精选》(一)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、全英、刘敏娟、李颜、张珂、陈颖、杨艳、杨常倩、胡小华、胡志雯、胡凌、夏孝才、路茜、黄晓燕、廖冀湘。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 I Am Perfectly Calm



One day, when Mr. Smith came home from work, he found his wife was very annoyed about something. Mr. Smith always thought that he was more sensible than his wife, so he started to give her a lecture on the

importance of always remaining calm.

Finally he said, "It's a waste of your strength to get excited about small things. Train yourself to be patient like me. Now, look at the fly that has just landed on my nose. Am I getting excited or annoyed? Am I swearing or waving my arms around? No, I'm not. I'm perfectly calm."

Just as he had said this, Mr. Smith started shouting. He jumped up and began to wave his arms around wildly and swear terribly. He couldn't speak for some time, but at last he was able to tell his wife; the thing on his nose hadn't been a fly, it had been a bee.

Exercises

I . Comprehension Questions :

1. What did Mr. Smith find when he came back from work one day?
2. What did he think about himself?
3. What did he do as a result?
4. What did Mr. Smith do after he said that he was perfectly calm?
5. Why did he do this?

II . Translation from English into Chinese :

1. Just as he had said this, Mr. Smith started shouting.

2. He couldn't speak for some time, but at last he was able to tell his wife, the things on his nose hadn't been a fly, it had been a bee.

III . Discussion Topics :

1. Who do you think is calmer in face of danger, men or women?
2. How do you react instinctively once you found there was a bee on your nose?

Key to the Exercises

I. Comprehension Questions:

1. He found his wife was very annoyed about something.
2. Mr. Smith always thought that he was more sensible than his wife.
3. As a result, he started to give her a lecture on the importance of always remaining calm.
4. Then he started shouting; jumped up and began to wave his arms around wildly and swear terribly.
5. Because the thing on his nose hadn't been a fly, it had been a bee.

II. Translation from English into Chinese:

1. 史密斯先生刚说完这番话,就开始喊叫起来。
2. 他有一会儿连话也说不出,最后才告诉他妻子:落在他鼻子上的不是苍蝇而是一只蜜蜂。

2 Mrs. Brown and the Plumber

Mr. Brown was very good at fixing things around the house when they broke. One day he went to another city to do some work there, and his wife was alone in the house. While Mr. Brown was away, one of the *faucets* (1. n. 龙头) on the *bathtub* (2. n. 浴缸) broke. Mrs. Brown didn't know much about fixing broken faucets, so she telephoned a plumber.

The plumber came to the house that afternoon and fixed the faucet in a few minutes. When he finished, he gave Mrs. Brown his bill for the work.

She looked at it for several seconds and then said, "Your prices are very high, aren't they? Do you know, the doctor costs less than this when he comes to the house?"

"Yes, I know," answered the plumber. "I know that very well, because I was a doctor until I was lucky enough to find this job a few months ago."

Exercises

I . Comprehension Questions :

1. Why didn't Mr. Brown fix the broken faucet in his bathroom?
2. Why didn't his wife fix it ?
3. Who did fix it?
4. How long did it take him?
5. What did Mrs. Brown say when she saw the plumber's bill?

II . Translation from English into Chinese :

1. When he finished, he gave Mrs. Brown his bill for the work.
2. I know that very well, because I was a doctor until I was lucky enough to find this job a few months ago.

III . Discussion Topics :

1. What do you think of the plumber's words? Did he tell Mrs. Brown the truth?
2. Would you like to give up your career as a doctor and work as a plumber just because you can get a little more money?

Key to the Exercises

I. Comprehension Questions:

1. Because he went to another city to do some work there.
2. Mrs. Brown didn't know much about fixing broken faucets.
3. The plumber.
4. It took him a few minutes.
5. She said, "Your prices are very high, aren't they? Do you know the doctor costs less than this when he comes to the house?"

II. Translation from English into Chinese:

1. 收工时,他交给布朗太太一份修理服务的账单。
2. 我对此十分清楚,因为我自己就是一个医生,直到几个月前我才有幸找到这份工作。