

*A Collection of  
English Readings*

**英语故事会**



贾桂立 主编

2

天津大学出版社

Going into the English Circle  
走入英语圈

系列丛书

A Collection of  
English Readings  
**英语故事会**

②

天津大学出版社

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## 英语故事会②

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## 编者的话

邱

《走入英语圈》系列丛书中的《英语故事会》收录汇编了古今中外各种趣味性读物数百篇。本书的体裁和内容包括：速读篇段、通俗短文、童话寓言、幽默小品、民间传说、神话故事、人文民俗、名篇简写、佳作采撷、作家生平、故事梗概、名人轶事、小说散文、名胜史地等。文字浅显、题材广泛，每篇读物后均有注释，适用于英语初学者和具有中级英语水平的读者阅读。

本书系《英语故事会》第二辑，该书英语单词的再现率较高，对于一些相对再现频率较低的词汇和短语，我们在另篇读物中适当做了重复注释，以便于初学者提高阅读效率。

由于编者水平有限，加之编写时间仓促，本书难免有一些不当之处，恳请读者批评指正。同时，本书编者对于为本书各篇读物作出了许多工作的同仁，谨表衷心的感谢！

编者

1984年6月17日

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## 1. At Least<sup>1</sup> I Am Not Lost

A city man from a big city with a new *carriage*<sup>2</sup> and a beautiful pair of horses was driving along a country road. He didn't give much attention to where he was going. Pretty soon he realized that he was lost, but he continued to drive, expecting to find his way or to meet someone who could tell him how to get back to the town.

It was a long lonely road, for many hours he kept on driving. When it was almost dark, he saw a farmer *ploughing*<sup>3</sup> the land. He stopped and called out, "Hello, farmer." "Hello yourself," the farmer replied, still ploughing.

"Where does this road go?"

"I haven't ever seen it go anywhere. It always stays right where it is," said the farmer, without stopping his work.

"How far is it to the next town?" said the driver, speaking a little louder.

"Don't know, never measured it." replied the farmer.

By this time the city man was getting angry. "What do you know? You're the biggest fool I have ever seen."

The farmer stopped ploughing and looked for a long time at the city man. Then he said *scornfully*<sup>4</sup>, "Maybe I don't know much. Perhaps I am a fool. But at least I am not lost."

### Notes:

1. at least 至少

2. carriage [ˈkærɪdʒ] n. (四轮) 马车  
3. plough [plau] vt. (= plow) 耕, 犁  
4. scornfully [ˈskɔːnfuli] ad. 轻蔑地, 嘲弄地

## 2. The Greatest Power<sup>1</sup>

A long time ago men hunted for their food. Often they killed wild animals, birds, or fish. How did they kill the beasts? They used rocks and wooden sticks. Sometimes they fought with their own hands and bodies.

Later on<sup>2</sup>, people began fighting each other. Everyone wanted more food and more land. They made arrows from sticks. They also made spears<sup>3</sup> from stones.

Then somebody invented the gun. Soldiers were taught how to shoot and kill enemy soldiers. Great wars were fought and many people died.

A famous general cried as he looked at one battle field. His soldiers were fighting well, but he felt very sad. He turned to his men and said, "My soldiers, I am going to ask you a question. The one who gives the best answer will receive a medal<sup>4</sup>. The question is this, What is the strongest power in the world?"

Four soldiers raised their hands. They wanted to answer the general's question. He asked the first one to speak.

"Sir," said the young man, "I think my gun is the strongest power. It can kill a person or an animal from a great distance<sup>5</sup>."

"Thank you," said the general. "Next." He pointed to the man who was his best soldier.

“A soldier is stronger,” said the second man. “He must shoot the gun and aim well. A gun’s power comes from the way it is used.”

The third soldier thought he had the best answer of all. “No, sir,” he said, “our general is the strongest power. He gives the orders for his soldiers to shoot their guns.”

The general said nothing. He waited for the last man to answer his question. The fourth soldier answered the general’s question this way: “I believe, sir, that the greatest power on earth is love. It makes the general decide if he wants his soldiers to use their guns. Also, if men had more love for each other, they would not use their guns.”

Now if you were this general, which of your soldiers would receive the medal? He gave it to the last man.

## Notes:

1. The Greatest Power 最强大的力量
2. later on 后来
3. spear [spiə] n. 矛, 标枪
4. medal ['medl] n. 奖章, 勋章
5. distance ['distəns] n. 距离

## 3. The Elephant and the Monkey

Once upon a time an elephant and a monkey had a quarrel. The elephant was proud because he was so strong. “Look, how big and

strong I am!" said the elephant. "I can pull a tree down, can you?"

Now the monkey was proud because he was so quick. "Look, how fast I can run and climb!" he said. "Can you climb a tree?"

At last, they went to a wise old owl<sup>1</sup>. "We cannot decide", they said to the owl. "Please tell us which is better—to be strong or to be quick?"

"Do just as I tell you, and then I shall find out which is better." said the old owl, "Do you see that great banana tree across the river? Go and get some bananas and bring them to me."

So the elephant and the monkey went to the river, but the monkey was afraid of the water.

"Get on my back," said the proud elephant, "I'll carry you across. I'm big and strong, and I'm not afraid of swimming across a river."

Soon they got to the other side of the river. *There stood a tree, so tall that the bananas hung high above<sup>2</sup>*. The elephant tried to pull the tree down but it was too strong for him. He tried to get the bananas with his nose, but they were too high.

"Wait a minute," said the monkey. "I can climb up and get some." This time the monkey was proud. He got up the tree and threw some bananas to the ground. The elephant put them into his big mouth.

Then they crossed the river again. "Now", they said when they gave the bananas to the owl, "Which is better—to be strong or to be quick?"

"Can anyone tell which is better?" asked the owl. "Neither of you could get the bananas alone. So no one should be proud."

## Notes:

1. owl [aul] n. 猫头鹰

2. There stood a tree, so tall that the bananas hung high above. 那里有一棵树, 香蕉就高高地挂在上头。

## 4. Do as I Do<sup>1</sup>

One morning a young woman, who had recently lost her first post, was examining the *advertisements*<sup>2</sup> in the paper *in search of*<sup>3</sup> other work. Suddenly she called out to her mother, who was in the kitchen.

"Listen to this, mother!" she cried. "I've found an easy way of *making money*<sup>4</sup>."

"What is it?" her mother asked, coming into the room.

"Listen," said the girl, and read the advertisement aloud: "Do you want to make money? Send me a *postal*<sup>5</sup> order for five *shillings*<sup>6</sup>, together *with a stamped, addressed envelope*<sup>7</sup>. You will receive a reply showing you how to make hundreds of pounds without leaving your house. 'Then there's a name and address. "

"*Nonsense*<sup>8</sup>!" said her mother. "You'll only lose five shillings and the cost of a postal order and two stamps. If he knows how to do that, why doesn't he do it himself? Why does he need to advertise? You won't get an answer. "

"Well, five shillings isn't much," she said. "I can try. "She went to the post-office, bought a postal order, and sent it off.



Two or three days later she received an envelope with a small piece of paper in it. On the paper were four words: "Do as I do."

## Notes:

1. Do as I Do 按照我(要求)的办法去做
2. advertisement [əd'vɜ:tismənt, .ædvə'taizmənt] n. 广告
3. in search of 寻找
4. make money 赚钱, 挣钱
5. postal ['pəustəl] a. 邮政的  
postal order 邮政汇票
6. shilling ['ʃiliŋ] n. 先令(英国旧货币单位, 一英镑的 1/20, 十二便士为一先令)
7. ...with a stamped, addressed envelope 和一个贴好邮票、写上地址的信封
8. nonsense ['nɒnsəns] int. 胡闹! 荒唐!

## 5. Sandy's<sup>1</sup> Garden

One day when Sandy came home from school, he saw Mum in the back yard. She was pulling the *weeds*<sup>2</sup> out of her garden.

"Hello Sandy," said Mum. "I am weeding my garden Spring is nearly here, but before spring comes, I am going to plant some *seeds*<sup>3</sup> in the garden. Would you like to help me plant them?"

"I would like to have a garden of my own," said Sandy.

"All right," said Mum. "You could make a garden of your own over there near the back *fence*<sup>4</sup>. You can dig the ground now and tomorrow I will give you some seeds to plant."