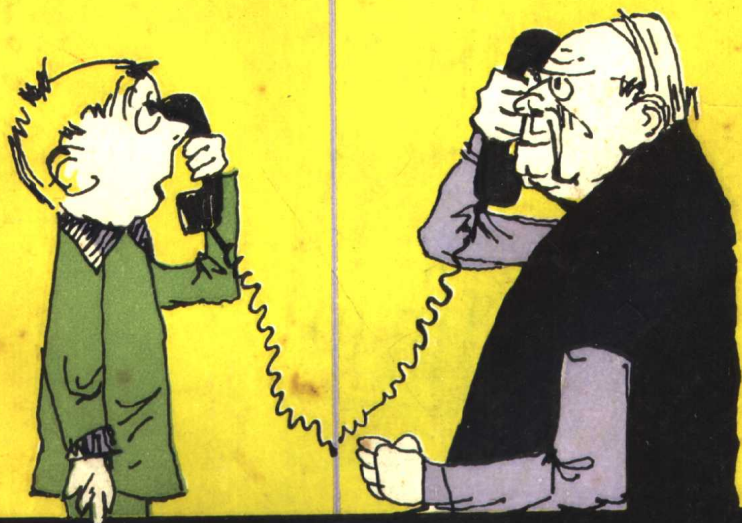


# HUMOROUS ENGLISH STORIES

(中学生、初级自学者适用)

樊恒夫、宋飞选注



## 英语短篇幽默故事集

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## 前 言

为了满足广大英语教师、学生和英语自学者对英语泛读材料的迫切需要，我们编辑了这套英语注释读物，陆续出版。这套书主要取材于国外各种书刊，其中有寓言、故事、小说、诗歌、戏剧、电影、报刊文摘、科普读物、人物传记等各种体裁。程度由易到难，循序渐进。注释或详或简，或加英汉对照，根据读物的不同情况和读者的不同要求进行不同处理。我们希望这套书的出版，有助于增进读者学习英语的兴趣，培养阅读习惯，巩固和发展已有的学习成果，逐步提高掌握现代英语的能力。

这本《英语短篇幽默故事集》是这套注释读物的一种，可作为初学者的入门泛读材料，尤其适合中学生阅读。书中对于人名、地名、背景知识、常用词语用法和少数难句作了比较详细的注释。每篇故事后面配有提示性思考题，以便加深理解，并可用于进行听力训练，口语问答或复述大意，从而培养听读能力。书末附有总词汇表，以备查阅。

由于我们水平有限，选材、注释难免有不妥之处，希望读者指正。

本书经西安外国语学院英语系孙天义教授校阅，谨致衷心地感谢。

编 者

一九八〇年七月

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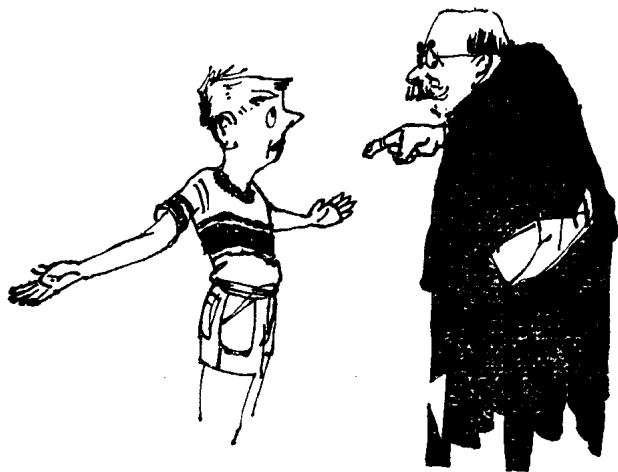
## 1. Correct

One morning in class the teacher asked Jimmy<sup>1</sup> :

“What are the three words which pupils use most often at school<sup>2</sup> ?”

Jimmy answered: “I don't know……”

The teacher said: “Correct.”



### Notes

1. Jimmy[ˈdʒɪmi]: 吉米 [James 的昵称]
2. What are the three words which...? 学生在学校里最

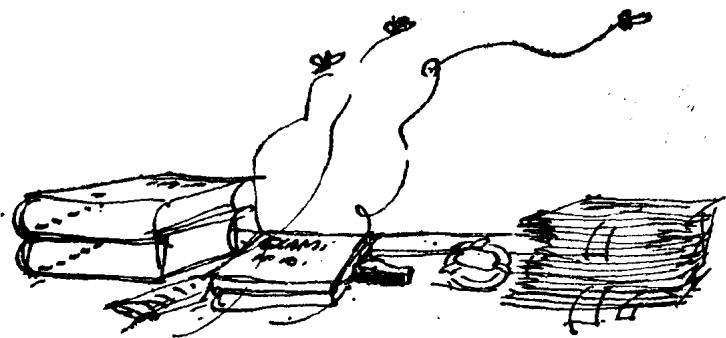
常用的三个词是什么？ which 引导的是定语从句，修饰 words。 most often 是 often 的最高级形式：最经常地。

## Questions

1. Who was Jimmy?
2. Did the teacher ask him a question one morning?
3. What was the question?
4. Did Jimmy really know the answer?
5. What did he say to the teacher?
6. Why did the teacher say his answer was correct?



## 2. A Bright Girl



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It is a sunny morning. The new pupils are having their first class at school. The teacher is asking each of them a question. "May<sup>1</sup>," she asks, "once I saw four flies on the table, and I killed one, how many were still there<sup>2</sup>?"

The little girl answers: "One, the dead one<sup>3</sup>."

"Right," says the teacher, smiling<sup>4</sup>.  
"You're a bright girl."

## Notes

1. May [mei]: 梅 [Mary 的昵称]
2. Once...: 句中用过去时, 使所述条件准确、肯定。可译为: 有一次, 我看到四只苍蝇, 我打死了一只, 那儿还有几只? saw 是 see 的过去式, were 是 are(be) 的过去式。
3. One, the dead one: 一只, 死了的那一只。这是省略句, 口语中常用。
4. smiling: 现在分词, 作状语, 表示伴随动作。此句可译成: 老师笑着说。

## Questions

1. What are the pupils doing at school?
2. Is the teacher asking each pupil a question?
3. Does the teacher ask May a question? What is the question?
4. What is the answer?
5. Is her answer right? Why (not)?
6. Why does the teacher say she is a bright girl?

### 3. The Horse and the Cart

The teacher told the class to draw a horse<sup>1</sup> and a cart. One boy finished his work very quickly, so the teacher went to look and found that he had drawn only a horse.



“What is this?” he asked.

“Well, the horse can draw the cart<sup>2</sup>,”  
came the answer.

## Notes

1. ... told the class to draw a horse; (教师) 要学生们画一匹马。to tell sb. to do sth. 告诉 (即要求) 某人干某事。told 是 tell 的过去式。
2. ... can draw the cart; ... (马) 能拉车。注意: 动词 draw 既可作“绘画”解, 也可作“拉, 拖”解。它用在不同的句子中表示不同的意思。例如:

The school-boy was *drawing* a chair up to the table.

He was going to *draw* a picture on the wall.

那个学生把椅子拉到桌旁, 他要在墙上画一幅画。

## Questions

1. What did the teacher tell his class to do?
2. Did any boy finish his work very quickly?
3. What did the teacher find on the boy's paper?
4. What did he ask him?
5. How did the boy answer him?
6. What did the boy mean by saying “The horse can draw the cart”?

## 4. Heat and Cold

At a physics lesson<sup>1</sup> the teacher asks the children about the effects of heat and cold on the body<sup>2</sup> .



“Heat makes things bigger and cold makes things smaller,” answers a bright boy.

“Quite right,” says the teacher. “Can you give an example<sup>3</sup> ?”

“In summer, when it is hot, the days are longer, but in winter, when it is cold, the days are shorter,” answers the bright boy.

### Notes

1. at a physics lesson: 在物理课堂上
2. the effects of heat and cold on the body: 热和冷对物体的影响
3. “Can you give an example?”: 你能举个例子吗?

### Questions

1. When does the teacher ask the children about the effects of heat and cold on the body?
2. Who answers the question?
3. What is the answer?
4. Does the teacher ask the pupil to give an example?
5. When are the days longer?
6. When are the days shorter?
7. Is the boy right?
8. Is his example good?

## 5. The Rich and the Learned<sup>1</sup>

A rich man once asked a learned man why men of science were so often to be seen at the doors of the rich<sup>2</sup>, though rich men were very rarely seen at the doors of the learned<sup>3</sup>.

“It is,” replied the scholar, “because the man of science knows the value of riches<sup>4</sup>, and the rich man does not always know the value of science.”



## Notes

1. the rich and the learned: 富人和学者。在英语中, 某些描绘人的性格和状态的形容词, 前面加上定冠词 the 表示一类, 具有复数意义。如: the poor = the poor people; the rich = the rich people; the learned = the learned men; 学者, 有学问的人。注意: learned (['lɜ:nɪd]) 不是 learn 的过去分词 learned ([lɜ:nd]), 而是形容词, 作“有学问的”解。
2. ... why men of science were so often to be seen...: 为什么常常在富人门前会看到科学家。(意即: 要求得到富人的资助。)
3. though...: 尽管(然而)很少在学者门前看到富人……此为让步状语从句。
4. the value of riches, 财富的价值

## Questions

1. What was the question a rich man asked a learned man?
2. What was the reply?
3. Who were so often to be seen at the doors of the rich?
4. Who were very rarely seen at the doors of the learned?
5. What was the answer?



## 6. A Barber's Joke

There are some boys who think themselves men and who go to the barber's shops to be shaved<sup>1</sup>.

Once a boy came into a barber's shop, and asked the barber to shave him. The

