

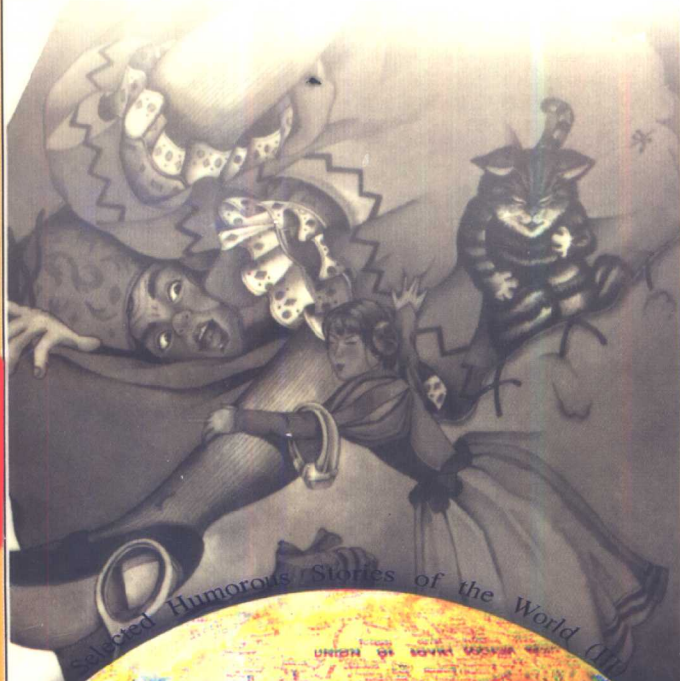
世界经典故事系列

主编 章晋新 肖云南

世界幽默故事精选

英语有声读物

3



湖南大学出版社

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—英语有声读物—

世界幽默故事精选(三)

Selected Humorous Stories
of the World (Ⅲ)

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David L. E. Watt.

湖南大学出版社

1998·长沙

Shijie Youmo Gushi Jingxuan

世界幽默故事精选(三)

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 出版发行 湖南大学出版社
社址 长沙市岳麓山 邮码 410082
电话 0731-8821691 0731-8821315
 经 销 湖南省新华书店
 印 装 国防科技大学印刷厂
-

- 开本 787×1092 小长 32 开 印张 4 字数 78 千
 版次 1998 年 6 月第 1 版 1998 年 6 月第 1 次印刷
 印数 1—5 000 册
 书号 ISBN 7-81053-145-X/H·27
 定价 4.50 元
-

(湖南大学版图书凡有印装差错, 请向承印厂调换)

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,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。

中国的英语爱好者,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。

本系列中的故事题材多样,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,作者的态度、观点,并训练读者的英语口头表达能力。

《世界幽默故事精选》(三)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、刘敏娟、全英、李颜、张珂、陈颖、杨常倩、胡小华、胡志雯、胡凌、夏孝才、路茜、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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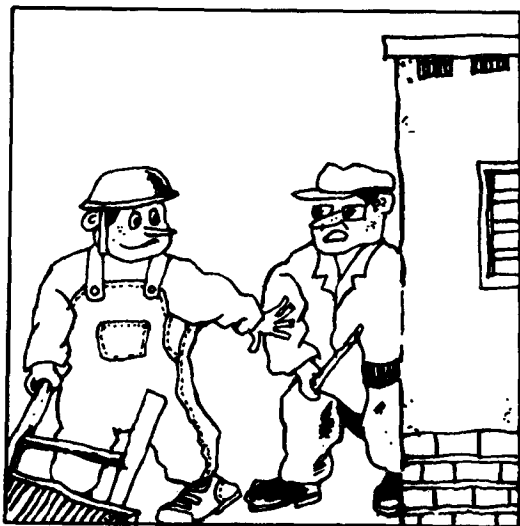
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1 Suspicious Behavior

The *foreman* (1. n. 工头) on a building site received a warning that one of the laborers had a criminal record.

“He has been in prison several times,” the informant told him, “and he has stolen anywhere he works. I advise you to watch him carefully.”



The foreman decided to take the informant's advice. He stood at the gate, and whenever the laborer pushed his *wheelbarrow* (2. n. 独轮手推车) toward him, he made him stand still and began to check him. He searched the wheelbarrow, his pockets, shirt, and hat. He did so everyday for a month, but he never found anything.

He said to his informant, "I think you must be wrong about him. Perhaps he's decided not to steal any more."

"Nonsense," the informant said. "He'll never change. The man's a thief and he'll always be a thief. Believe me."

Days passed, and every day the foreman searched the laborer, but he never found anything.

At last the building was complete and all the workers went away to do other jobs.

A few weeks later, the foreman met the laborer in a bar.

He said to the labourer, "Now that you are not my employee, I have something to ask you, and whatever you reply will be a secret between us. Tell me, did you steal anything from the building site?"

The laborer smiled and nodded.

"Yes," he said. "I stole something almost every day."

“Then tell me or I’ll never feel at ease,” the foreman said, “What were you stealing? Supplies? Construction materials? Money?”

“No, none of those things.”

“What then?” the foreman asked.

“Wheelbarrows, of course,” the laborer told him.

Exercises

I . Comprehension Questions :

1. Who had been in prison several times?
2. What did the foreman do after he received the warning?
3. What conclusion did the foreman come to?
4. What did the foreman ask the laborer when they met each other again?
5. What had the laborer really stolen?

II . Translation from English into Chinese :

1. He said to his informant, “I think you must be wrong about him. Perhaps he’s decided not to steal any more.”
2. He said to the labourer, “Now that you are not my employee, I have something to ask you, and whatever you reply will be a secret between us. Tell me, did you steal anything from the building site?”

III . Discussion Topics :

1. What makes it possible that the laborer could steal wheelbarrows from the building site?
2. Do you believe a man will always be a thief if he was a thief once ? Give some reasons.

Key to the Exercises

I . Comprehension Questions:

1. One of the laborers.
2. He searched the laborer thoroughly everyday for a month.
3. The laborer gave up stealing.
4. He asked him if he had stolen anything from the building site.
5. He had really stolen wheelbarrows.

II . Translation from English into Chinese:

1. 建筑工头对提供信息的人说：“我认为你一定是弄错了。也许是他决定金盆洗手不再干了。”
2. 建筑工头对这个工人说：“你现在不是我的雇员了，我有点事想问你，不论你怎么回答我，这将成为我们之间的一个秘密，告诉我你有没有在施工工地偷过东西？”

2 Only Wrong by Two

Jack Hawking was the football coach at an American college, and he was always trying to find good players, but they weren't always smart enough to be accepted by the college.

One day the coach brought an excellent young player to the dean of the college and asked that the student be allowed to enter without an examination. "Well," the dean said after some persuasion, "I'd better ask him a few questions first."

Then he turned to the student and asked him some very easy questions, but the student didn't know any of the answers.

At last the dean said, "Well, what's five times seven?"

The student thought for a long time and then answered, "Thirty-six."

The dean threw up his hands and looked at the coach in despair, but the coach said earnestly, "Oh, please let him in, sir! He was only wrong by two."

Exercises

I . Comprehension Questions :

1. Why did the football coach want the dean to let the student enter college without an examination?
2. What question did the dean ask the student?
3. What was the student's answer?
4. What did the dean do then?
5. Who was better at arithmetic , the student or the coach?

II . Translation from English into Chinese :

1. Then he turned to the student and asked him some very easy questions , but the student didn't know any of the answers.
2. The dean threw up his hands and looked at the coach in despair , but the coach said earnestly , "Oh , please let him in , sir ! He was only wrong by two . "

III . Discussion Topics :

1. Who is better at math , the coach or the young player?
2. Could you be good at sports and excellent at study as well ? Give some examples .

Key to the Exercises

I . Comprehension Questions :

1. Because the coach was afraid that the player might not be smart enough to be accepted by the college.
2. The dean asked the student, "What's five times seven?"
3. The student answered, "Thirty-six."
4. The dean threw up his hands and looked at the coach in despair.
5. Neither.

II . Translation from English into Chinese :

1. 然后他转向那个学生,问了一些非常简单的问题,但那个学生却一个也答不上来。
2. 院长摊开双手绝望地看看教练,而教练却认真地说:“噢,请把他收下吧,先生!他就差了二个数。”