

2000

词畅读英语名家故事

三人共进餐

Three at Table

英汉对照

王蓝 译



安徽科学技术出版社

[英汉对照]

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三人共进餐

王 蓝 译

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译 序

学习英语的人,可能都有这样的体会:当自己学习了一些课文,积累了一些单词,通晓了一些语法,于是不觉技痒,希望能找到一块“用武之地”,这块“用武之地”就是正好适合自己消化能力的原文作品。

可这样的“用武之地”不易得。找得不适当,或是生吞活剥,难解其意;或是勉为其难,味同嚼蜡。数次碰壁,你就会偃旗息鼓,无心恋战了。

好作品不可多得,而浅显易懂的好作品更难求。

如果您已经掌握了英语的基本语法,并已具有 2000~2500 个词汇的储备量,那么您可以把这本书读下去。读下去,您会发现,您竟能通晓、理解语言那么生动、情节那么有趣、内容那么深刻丰富的故事,于是——

您将信心倍增。

“山阴道上,应接不暇。”而您竟亲自拾级而上,竟一步一步地攀登上去了。

不要倚仗译文,不要倚靠手杖,不要先听别人介绍景色。您是自己读的,您是自己攀登上去的,您是在自己在领略风光的。译者是另一个读者,是您的旅伴。在您登山歇脚时,则不妨听听您同伴的领会与感受,互相印证,或可助兴,但何必一定要有共识?

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THE STOCKBROKER'S CLERK

After, A. Conan Doyle

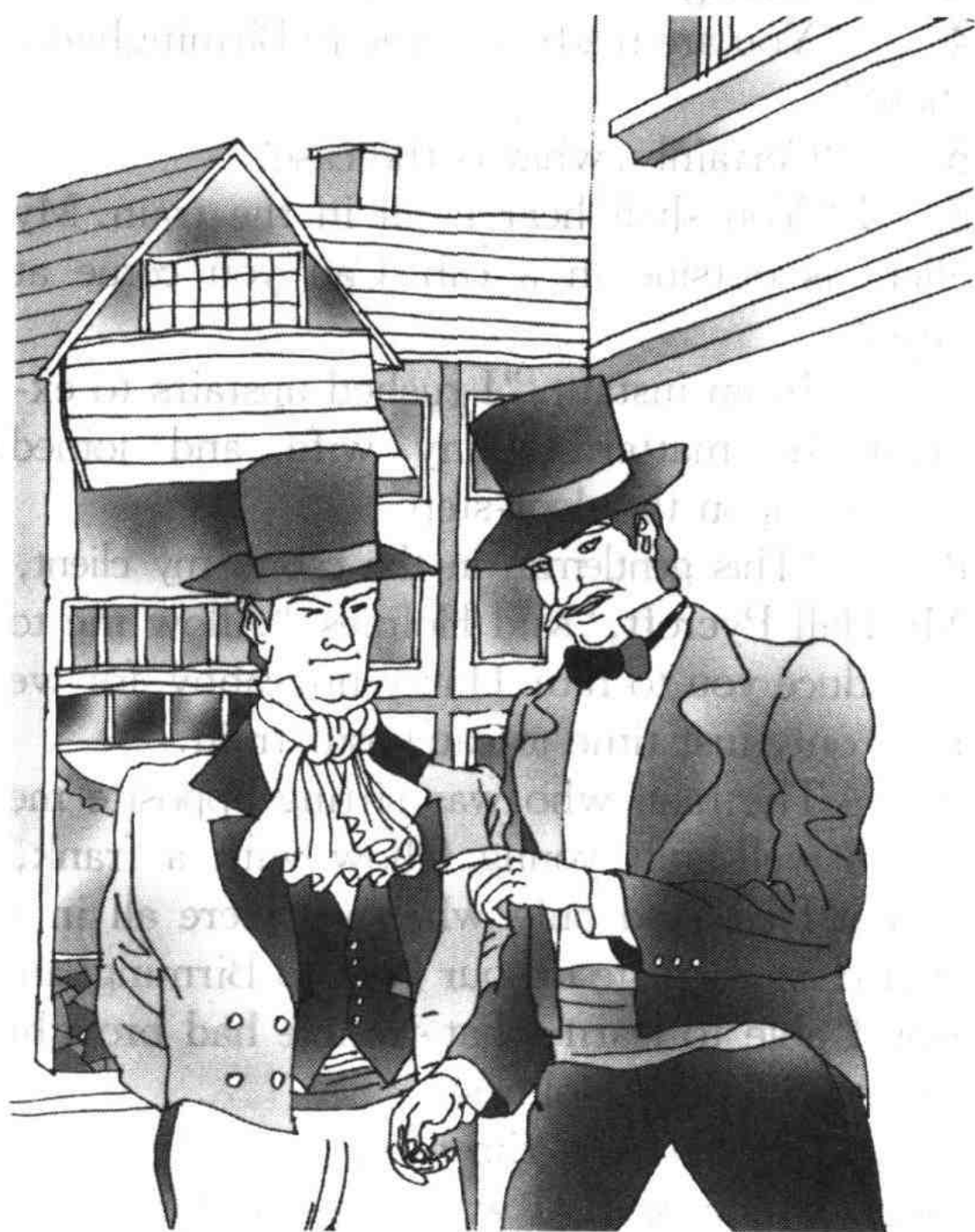
1 For three months after moving to the Paddington district I was very busy, and saw little of my friend Sherlock Holmes, for I had no time to visit Baker Street, and he seldom



证券经纪人的办事员

柯南道尔 原著

1 迁到派丁汤区来 3 个月中,我一直很忙,很少见到我的朋友歇洛克·福尔摩斯,因为我没有时间去贝克街,而他要不是为了业



went anywhere himself except on professional business. I was surprised, therefore, when one morning in June, as I was reading the British Medical Journal after breakfast, I heard a ring of the bell and my old friend entered the house.

2 "Ah, my dear Watson," said he coming into the room. "I am delighted to see you. I hope that Mrs. Watson has recovered from all the little excitements connected with our adventure of the 'Sign of Four'?"

3 "Thank you, we are both very well," said I shaking him warmly by the hand.

4 "You are ready to come to Birmingham, then?"

5 "Certainly, what is the case?"

6 "You shall hear it all in the train. My client is outside in a cab. Can you come at once?"

7 "In an instant." I rushed upstairs to explain the matter to my wife, and joined Holmes upon the door-step.

8 "This gentleman in the cab is my client, Mr. Hall Pycroft," said Holmes. "Allow me to introduce you to him. Hurry up, cabby, for we have only just time to catch our train."

9 The man who was sitting opposite me was a well-built young fellow with a frank, honest face. And only when we were all in a first-class carriage on our way to Birmingham was I able to learn what trouble had brought him to Sherlock Holmes.

10 "We have a run of seventy minutes," Holmes remarked. "I want you, Mr. Hall Py-

务上的事又是很少外出的。因此,六月的一个早晨,我用完早餐,正读着英国医学杂志,听到铃声并看到我的老朋友进屋来时,我真是感到出乎意料。

2 “啊,我亲爱的华生,”他边说边走进房间。“见到你真高兴。我想,华生太太已经康复了吧,上次我们在‘四签名’中冒险行动,让她受了点惊。”

3 “谢谢,我们俩都很好。”我说,一面和他热情握手。

4 “那么你是准备上伯明翰去了?”

5 “当然,这案子是怎么回事?”

6 “你会在火车里听到这一切。我的委托人在外面的马车上等着。你能马上动身么?”

7 “稍等片刻。”我奔上楼去向我妻子交代了一下,就到门口台阶上和福尔摩斯会合。

8 “车里的这位先生是我的委托人,霍尔·派克洛夫特先生,”福尔摩斯说,“请允许我介绍一下。车夫,加快一点,我们的时间刚够赶上火车。”

9 这个坐在我对面的人是个身体健壮、脸相坦诚的年轻人。我们在开往伯明翰的火车头等车厢里坐定后,我才了解到是什么样的伤脑筋的事使他来找歇洛克·福尔摩斯的。

10 “我们要坐 70 分钟的车,”福尔摩斯说道,“霍尔·派克洛夫特先生,请你给我的朋友

stock [stɒk] *n.* [美] 股本;股票 (= [英] shares)

stockbroker (代客买卖的) 证券经纪人

client ['klaɪənt] *n.* 委托人,当事人

cab [kæb] *n.* 出租马车;出租汽车

cabby ['kæbi] *n.* 出租马车(或汽车)驾驶人

frank [fræŋk] *a.* 坦白的;直率的;真诚的

croft, to tell my friend your very interesting story exactly as you have told it to me, or with more detail if possible. It is a case, Watson, which may prove to have something in it, or may prove to have nothing. Now, Mr. Pycroft, I shall not interrupt you again."

11 Our young companion looked at me with a twinkle in his eye.

12 "The worst of the story is," said he, "that I show myself up as such a fool. I am not very good at telling a story, Dr. Watson, but it is like this with me.

13 "I saw a vacancy at Mawson and Williams, the great stockbroking firm in Lombard Street. I can tell you that this is one of the richest firms in London. The advertisement was to be answered by letter only. I sent in my testimonial and application, but without the least hope of getting the situation. An answer came back by return saying that if I would appear next Monday I might take over my new duties at once, provided that my appearance was satisfactory.

14 "And now I come to the strange part of the business. Well, I was sitting in my room smoking the very evening after I had been promised the appointment, when my landlady came up with a card which had 'Arthur Pinner, financial agent' printed upon it. I had never heard the name before and could not imagine what he wanted with me, but of course I asked her to show him up. He came in. He was a middle-sized, dark-haired, darkeyed, black-

说说你的十分有趣的故事,原原本本地,就像你给我讲过的那样,如果可能,不妨更详尽些。华生,这是个可能有些名堂的案子,也可能是捕风捉影。好吧,派克洛夫特先生,我不再打扰你了。”

11 我们的年轻的旅伴眼睛亮闪闪地瞧着我。

12 “这事情最糟糕的是,”他说,“我当了个冤大头。我不会讲故事,华生大夫,可我就碰到了这样的事。”

13 “我在报上看到郎保特大街那家大证券公司,莫森和威廉斯公司有一个空缺。我可以告诉你,这是伦敦最富有的公司之一。它的广告上要求是用函件应聘。我把自己的证明和申请都寄去了,心中并不存能获职的奢望。可是回信来了,信里说,如果我下星期一去那里,只要外表合格,便可当即就任新职。”

14 “现在我就讲到这件事的奇怪处了。是这样,我得到录用的通知的那天晚上,我坐在自己房间里吸烟,房东太太送来一张名片,上面印着:‘财务总监,阿瑟·平纳’。我从未听到这名字,也猜不透他找我干嘛,但当然我还是让她去请进来。他进来了,是个中等个

vacancy [ˈveikənsi] *n.* 空白;空闲

testimonial [ˌtestiˈməʊnjəl] *n.* 证明书,介绍信;鉴定书

provided [prəˈvaɪdɪd] *conj.* 以……为条件,假如

appointment [əˈpɔɪntmənt] *n.* 任命,选派;职位;约定

bearded man. He spoke sharply, like a man that knew the value of time.

15 “‘Mr. Hall Pycroft, I believe?’ said he.

16 “‘Yes, sir,’ I answered, and pushed a chair towards him.

17 “‘On the staff of Mawson’s?’

18 “‘Quite so.’

19 “‘Well,’ said he, ‘the fact is that I have heard some really extraordinary stories about your financial ability!’

20 “Of course I was pleased to hear this. I had always been pretty smart in the office, but I had never dreamed that I was talked about in the City.

21 “‘You have a good memory?’ said he.

22 “‘Pretty fair,’ I answered modestly.

23 “‘Have you kept in touch with the market while you have been out of work?’ he asked.

24 “‘Yes, I read the Stock Exchange List every morning.’

25 “‘Now, that shows real application!’ he cried, ‘that is the way to prosper! You won’t mind my testing you, will you? Let me see! How are Ayrshires?’

26 “‘One hundred and five, to one hundred and five a quarter.’

27 “‘And New Zealand Consolidated?’

28 “‘A hundred and four.’

29 “‘And British Broken Hills?’

30 “‘Seven to seven and six.’

31 “‘Wonderful!’ he cried with his hands up. ‘This quite fits in with all that I have

子，黑头发，黑眼睛，长着黑胡须。他讲话很急促，像是个很懂得时间价值的人。

15 “‘我想，你是霍尔·派克洛夫特先生吧？’他说。

16 “‘是的，先生。’我回答道，同时向他移过去一张椅子。

17 “‘在莫森公司供职吧？’

18 “‘不错。’

19 “‘啊，’他说，‘我已听到关于你理财能力方面的不同凡响的事迹！’

20 “‘听他这么说，我当然很高兴。我在自己职位上总是干得很出色的，可是我从未梦想过，我会在伦敦金融界受人注目。

21 “‘你记忆力很好吧？’他说。

22 “‘还凑合，’我回答得很谦虚。

23 “‘你失业后，还关注市场情况吧？’

24 “‘是的，我每天早晨都读证券行情表。’

25 “‘啊，这才显出真正的钻劲！’他大声说道，‘这才是成功之路！我想考一考你，不见怪吧？我想想！爱尔郡股票牌价多少？’

26 “‘105 镑至 $105\frac{1}{4}$ 镑。’

27 “‘新西兰统一公债呢？’

28 “‘104 镑。’

29 “‘英国勃鲁根·希尔思呢？’

30 “‘7 镑至 7 镑 6 先令。’

31 “‘太棒了！’他举起双手欢呼起来。‘这完全符合我所听到的。我的朋友，我的朋

heard. My boy, my boy, you are very much too good to be a clerk at Mawson's!'

32 "This outburst rather astonished me. 'Well,' said I, 'other people don't think quite so much of me as you seem to do, Mr. Pinner. I had a hard enough fight to get this situation, and I am very glad to have it.'

33 "'Oh, man. You are not in your true sphere. What I have to offer is little enough when compared with your ability, but when compared with Mawson's it is as light to dark. Let me see! When do you go to Mawson's?'

34 "'On Monday.'

35 "'Ha, ha! I bet that you won't go there at all.'

36 "'Not go to Mawson's?'

37 "'No, sir. By that day you will be business manager of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company, Limited, with one hundred and thirty-four branches in the towns and villages of France, not counting one in Brussels and one in San Reno!'

38 "This took my breath away. 'I never heard of it,' said I.

39 "'Very likely not. It has been kept very quiet, for the capital was all privately subscribed. My brother, Harry Pinner, joins the board as managing director. He knew that I was here, and he asked me to find an energetic young man. We can only offer you a beggarly five hundred to start with.'

40 "'Five hundred a year!' I shouted.

友,你当一名莫森公司的办事员真是太屈才了!’

32 “这样的热情流露使我感到很吃惊。‘啊’,我说,‘别人可不像你这样看待我,平纳先生,我好不容易找到这份差使,我为此感到很高兴。’

33 “‘哦,老兄,你可是不得其所呀。我要给你安排的,若与你才能相比,也是不足道的,但若与莫森公司相比,可是天上地下。呃,你什么时候到莫森公司去?’

34 “‘下星期一。’

35 “‘哈,哈!我敢打赌你一定不会去的。’

36 “‘不去莫森公司?’

37 “‘是的,先生。到那一天你将是法国中部五金有限公司的经理。这家公司在法国城乡各地有 134 家分公司,另外在布鲁塞尔有一家,在圣雷诺还有一家。’

38 “‘这让我透不过气来。‘我可从来没有听到过它呀。’我说。

39 “‘非常可能。这是极端保密的,公司资本都是以私人名义捐助的。我的兄弟,哈里·平纳是总经理,并进了董事会。他知道我在这儿,就要我物色一个能干的年轻人。一开始,我们只能给你 500 镑,不足挂齿。’

40 “‘一年 500 镑!’我喊道。

hardware [ˈhɑ:dweə] *n.* [总称] 金属器具

Brussels [ˈbrʌslz] *n.* 布鲁塞尔

board [bɔ:d] *n.* 全体委员,委员会

beggarly [ˈbegəli] *a.* 乞丐般的,少得可怜的

41 “‘Only that at the beginning, but you are to have a commission of 1 per cent on all business done by your agents, and you may take my word for it that this will come to more than your salary.’

42 “‘But I know nothing about hardware.’

43 “‘Never mind, my boy, you know about figures.’

44 “‘I was so excited that I could hardly sit still in the chair. But suddenly I began to doubt.

45 “‘I must be frank with you,’ said I. ‘Mawson only gives me two hundred but Mawson is a well known firm. Now, really I know so little about your company that.’

46 “‘Ah!’ he cried in a kind of ecstasy of delight. ‘You are the very man for us! Now here’s a note for a hundred pounds; and if you think we can do business you may just put it into your pocket as an advance upon your salary!’

47 “‘That is very handsome,’ said I. ‘When shall I begin my new work?’

48 “‘Be in Birmingham tomorrow at one,’ said he.

49 “‘I have a note in my pocket here which you will take to my brother. You will find him at 126, Corporation Street, where the temporary offices of the company are situated. Of course he must confirm your engagement, but between ourselves it will be all right.’

50 “‘Really. I hardly know how to ex-

41 “‘这只是在开始阶段,但是你还可以从你代理人做成的营业额中提成百分之一,你可以相信我说的,就这方面的收入将超过你的薪水。’

42 “‘可是对五金我是一窍不通。’

43 “‘没关系,我的朋友,你懂得数字嘛。’

44 “‘我是那么激动,几乎在椅子上坐不住了。可是突然我起了疑心。’

45 “‘我得与你开诚布公,’我说,‘莫森公司只给我 200 镑,可是莫森公司是家有名的公司。啊,我对贵公司确实不甚了解。’

46 “‘啊!’他欣喜万分地高喊道,‘你真是我们所需要的人!这儿是一张 100 镑的钞票;如果你认为我们可以谈成,那就把它装进口袋,算是预支你的薪水吧!’

47 “‘这可是太厚待了,’我说,‘我什么时候就任新职呢?’

48 “‘明天一点钟在伯明翰。’他说。

49 “‘我口袋里有一张便条,你把它带给我兄弟。你可以在企业街 126 号找到他,那儿是公司临时办公处所在地。当然,他必须批准对你的任命,但是我们之间是不会有问题的。’

50 “‘真的,我不知道该怎样感谢你,平纳

commission [kə'mɪʃən] *n.* 手续费,佣金

salary ['sæləri] *n.* 薪水

ecstasy ['ekstəsi] *n.* 狂喜,出神,入迷