



西方元典

WESTERN
CLASSICS

英汉对照本

WESTERN CLASSICAL HUMOR

西方经典幽默

《西方元典》编委会 主编
吴群芳 编译

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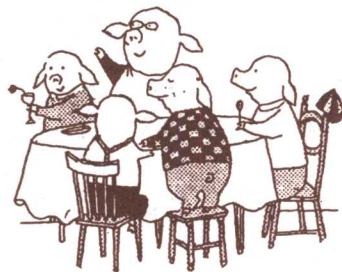
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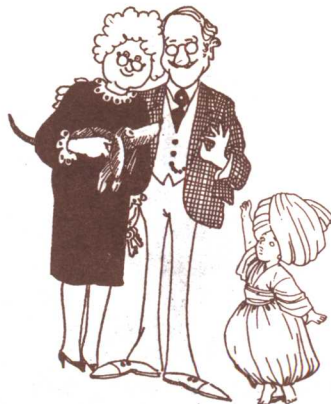
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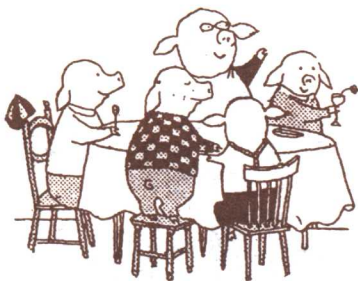
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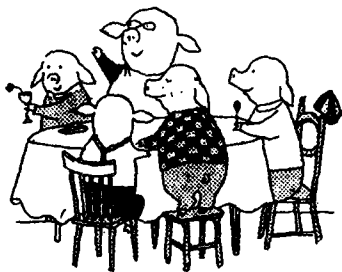
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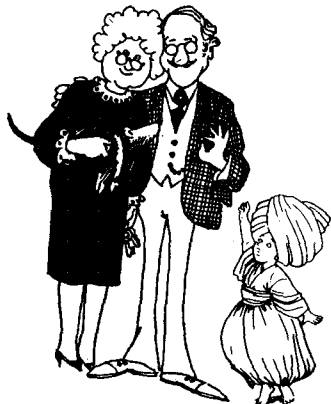
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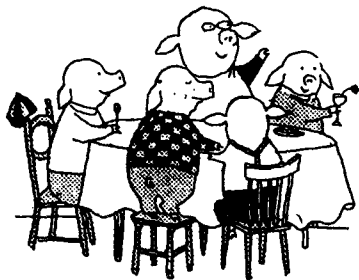
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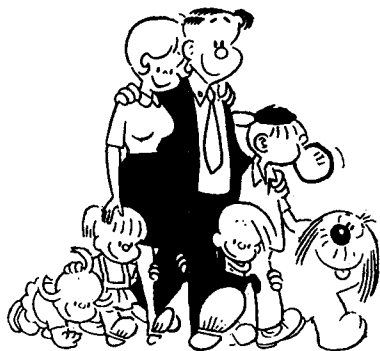
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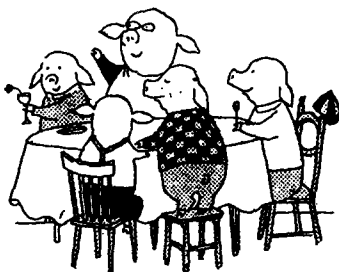
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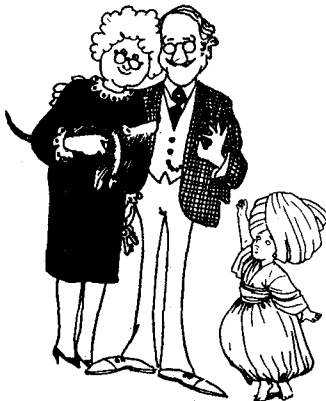
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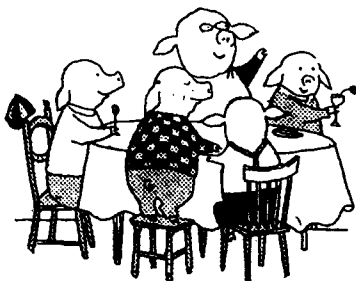
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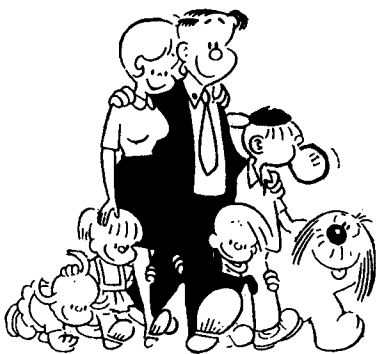
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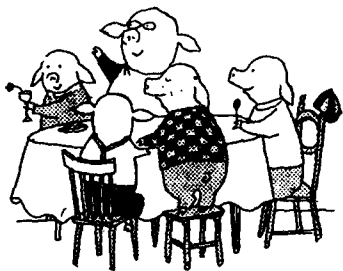
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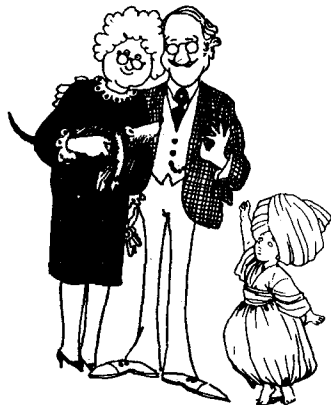
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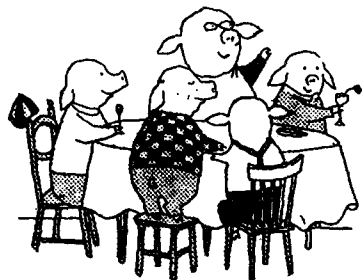
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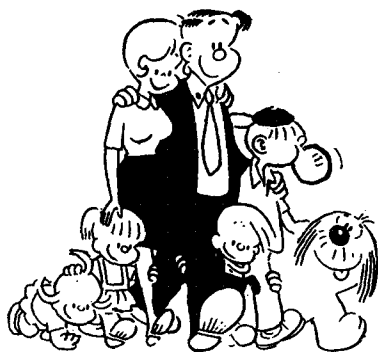
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Pension 养老金

From Ernest's point of view, the interview was going very well indeed. Six days before, he had applied for a job with a small business company and now he was being interviewed by one of the directors. The advertisement had invited applications from ambitious young men who would be willing to travel abroad at short notice if necessary and who would not mind working irregular hours. Ernest had taken great pains not to say anything silly and the director seemed to be most impressed.

"You say, you're not married, Mr Reeves," the director said.

"No, sir," Ernest answered. "I'm getting married next June, but I'm sure my future wife won't have any objection to my keeping irregular hours."

"I see from your application form you have worked as a salesman for two years. Why do you wish to change your job now?" "I found the work too dull, sir," Ernest answered.

"That's a refreshing change," the director said. "Most young men these days seem to want dull jobs. The first question young men ask me is whether the job I'm offering carries a pension. They want to retire before they start!"

"Does the job carry a pension, sir?" Ernest asked anxiously.

在欧内斯特看来,面试确实进行得非常不错。六天前,他向一家小公司申请一份工作,这会儿,公司的一个主管正在对他进行面试。公司的招聘广告要求应聘的有志青年愿意在必要的时候随时到国外出差,并且不介意工作时间没有规律。欧内斯特尽了最大努力不说出什么蠢话,那位主管看来对他印象颇深。

"你说你还没有结婚,里夫斯先生?"主管问道。

"是的,先生,"欧内斯特回答道,"我要在明年六月份结婚,不过我肯定我未来的妻子对我没有规律的工作时间不会有任何反对的。"

"我从你的申请表上看到你曾经做过两年推销员。为什么你现在想改变你的工作?"

"我觉得那个工作太乏味了,先生,"欧内斯特回答道。

"这可是个新鲜的变化,"主管说道,"现在的绝大多数年轻人似乎都想找个乏味的工作。他们问我的第一个问题就是我提供的工作是否附带养老金。他们在还没开始工作的时候就已经盘算着退休了!"

"那么,这份工作附带养老金吗?先生!"欧内斯特焦急地问道。

五味职场

The head of our electronics – design lab was in a bad mood, and it became worse when he found a roll of acid – core solder on our supply shelf. “This kind of solder is not suitable for electronics work!” he lectured, and tossed it into a wastebasket.

A technician who had not been present for this episode later noticed the solder in the trash and returned it to the supply shelf. When the boss spotted it, he launched into an even louder tirade than before, flinging the solder out our second – floor window.

The tension in the room had just begun to ease when there was a knock on the door. “Did you guys lose this?” asked a maintenance man, handing the roll of solder to our boss.

我们电子设计实验室的老板心情非常糟糕，当他看到货架上有一卷酸芯焊条时，心情就更加恶劣了。“这种焊条不适合电子工艺！”他教训道，然后一把把它扔进了垃圾篓。

一个刚才没在场的技术员后来注意到垃圾篓中的焊条，就又把它的放回了货架上。当老板看到它后，立刻发表了一通比刚才更声色俱厉的斥责，随后用力把焊条从二楼的窗口扔了出去。

房间里的紧张气氛刚刚开始有所缓和，门上响起了敲门声，“你们谁掉了这个？”一个维修员问，边说边把那卷焊条递给了老板。



Asked for the Position

求职

A man heard that a certain government department wanted a clerk, so he wrote and asked for the position. But while he was waiting for an answer, a friend of his introduced him to the head of the department, who at once gave him the job.

Several months later, while the man was working in the department, he got a letter which had been sent on to him from his old address. This letter said:

"Dear Sir,

We are sorry to have to tell you that we cannot offer you work in this department because we do not think that you would be able to do the job successfully.

Yours faithfully,"

The man laughed, but when he looked at the letter more carefully, he saw that he had signed it himself!

CCS

有个人听说某个政府部门想招一位职员，就写信去要求这个职位。但就在他等候答复的时候，一个朋友把他介绍给那个部门的头儿，头儿立刻就给了他工作。

几个月后，当那个人正在部里工作时，他收到一封从老地址转寄过来的信。信上写道：

“亲爱的先生，

我们很抱歉地通知你，我们不能在本部门为你提供工作，因为我们不认为你能够胜任这一工作。

你的忠实的，”

那个人笑了起来，可是当他更仔细地看那封信时，他发觉信上的署名正是自己！



一个地狱里的约会

An Appointment in Hell

The head buyer for a large department store died and went to hell. The first person he met was a salesman he had constantly avoided on earth. The salesman pushed up and said, "Here I am, Irving, right on time for our appointment."

"What appointment?" said the buyer.

"Remember, every time I tried to see you in your office, you said you'd see me in hell, first."

一家大百货公司的总采购员死后到了地狱。他碰到的第一个人是他在世间时老是想要设法躲着的一个售货员。那个售货员赶紧过来跟他说，“我在这里，艾尔凡，准时赶上我们的约会。”

“什么约会？”总采购员莫名其妙地问。

“你记得吗？每次我想要在你的办公室跟你碰面时，你都说你会在地狱里第一个见我。”



George had worked for the Bank of Ruritania for ten years and was still only a clerk. He was not satisfied with his position and wanted to find something better, but he also did not want to lose his position in the bank before he had got another one, so he prepared a letter about himself, with the words "HELP! I AM A PRISONER OF THE BANK OF RURITANIA!" in big letters across the top, and sent it to several big companies, asking them for a job.

A few days later, one of these letters came into the hands of George's chief at the bank. Someone had given it to him at his club. The next morning, George's chief asked him to come into his room and said, "George, I have some very good news for you. The Bank of Ruritania is setting you free!"

乔治在鲁里坦尼亚银行已经工作了十年，可还是一个小职员。他对自己的职位很不满意，想要找个更好的差事，但是，他又不想在谋到另一份差事之前丢掉银行里的位子，于是他为自己准备了一封信，顶头用大写字母写着“救命！我是鲁里坦尼亚银行的一个囚犯！”，然后把它寄给了几家大公司，希望能得到一份工作。

几天之后，其中的一封信落在了乔治所在银行的主管手里。有人在俱乐部里把信给了他。第二天早上，乔治的主管让他到自己的办公室，对他说道，“乔治，我有很好的消息给你。鲁里坦尼亚银行释放你了！”

救命

HELP

005



In some Government offices the clerks, upon arrival in the morning, have to sign their names in an "attendance book". This book provides space for signature, time of arrival, and "remarks." Ten minutes after the hour an official draws a red line under the last arrival's name, and all those coming subsequently are expected to furnish an explanation of their tardiness in the "remarks" column.

When a real "London particular" occurs the number "below the line" is legion; the first of them writes: "Delayed by fog," and the rest scribble a "ditto".

One morning—a foggy one—Mr. Jones became a proud father; but even this only caused him to be about eleven minutes late. Proudly he wrote in explanation: "Wife had twins," which was followed in due course by the usual string of "ditto's"!

在一些政府机关里，职员们早上上班时都要在一本“签到簿”上签上他们的名字。这本签到簿留出了空间写签名、到达时间以及“备注”。上班时间过后十分钟，就会有一个官员在最后一个签到者的名字下面画一道红线，所有那些后来的人都必须在“备注”栏里注明他们迟到的原因。

当真正的“伦敦大雾”出现的时候，“红线以下”的名字就很可观；第一个迟到的人写上“因大雾延误时间，”其他的人就在下面草草写上“同上”。

一天早上——一个浓雾弥漫的早晨——琼斯先生骄傲地当上了父亲；但即便是这种特殊理由也只让他迟到了十一分钟。他自豪地解释了迟到的原因：“妻子生了一对双胞胎，”这个解释下面照例又跟了长长的一串“同上”。

An Explanation of Tardiness

迟到的原因