WORLD FAMOUS PEOPLE'S ANECDOTES

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世界名人轶事

双语阅读

河南人民出版社

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

世界名人轶事/霍冬克主编. -郑州:河南人民出版社,2005.1
(双语阅读丛书/霍冬克主编)
ISBN 7-215-05420-9

Ⅰ.世… Ⅱ.霍… Ⅲ.英语-阅读教学-中学-课外读物 Ⅳ.G634.413

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2004)第 001945 号

河南人民出版社出版发行
(地址:郑州市经五路 66 号　邮政编码:450002　电话:5723341)
新华书店经销　　郑州市毛庄印刷厂印刷
开本　850 毫米×1168 毫米　1/32　印张　5.875
字数　141 千字
2005 年 1 月第 1 版　2005 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

定价:10.00 元

前　言

本书是为帮助广大中学生和业余英语爱好者巩固英语基础知识，扩大英语词汇量，提高英语阅读和写作能力而编写的英汉对照读物。

该书收集了世界上部分有名望的科学家、政治家和文学艺术家等人的生平传记和故事26篇。文章均选自英美原文并对原文做了适当的删节和改动，语言生动优美，形式活泼多样，内容丰富有趣。同时，为了阅读方便，各篇文章都附有难点注释和汉语译文。由于水平有限，疏忽错误在所难免，请读者批评指正。

编译者

2004年12月

Contents

目　录

1. Two Stories of Washington

I . George Washington and the Horse

Once a neighbour stole one of Washington's horse. Washington went with a police officer to the neighbour's farm to get the horse, but the neighbour refused to give the horse up; he claimed that it was his horse.

Washington placed both of his hands over the eyes of the horse and said to the neighbour, "If this is your horse, then you must tell us in which eye he is blind."

"In the right eye!" the neighbour said.

Washington took his hand from the right eye of the horse and showed the police officer that the horse was not blind in the right eye.

"Oh, I have made a mistake," said the neighbour. "He is blind in the left eye."

Washington then showed that the horse was not blind in the left eye either.

"I have made another mistake," said the neighbour.

"Yes," said the police officer, "and you have also proved that the horse does not belong to you. You must return it to Mr Washington."

Ⅱ. George Washington and His Hatchet

When George Washington was quite a little boy, his father gave him a hatchet. It was bright and new, and George took great delight in going about and chopping things with it.

He ran into the garden, and there he saw a tree which seemed to say to him, "Come and cut me down!"

George had often seen his father's men chop down the great trees in the forest. He thought that it would be a fine sport to see this tree fall with a crash to the ground. So he set to work with his little hatchet, and, as the tree was a very small one, it did not take long to cut it down.

Soon after that, his father came home.

"Who has been cutting my fine young cherry tree?" he cried. "It was the only tree of its kind in this country, and it cost me a great deal of money."

He was very angry when he came into the house.

"If only I knew who killed that cherry tree," he cried. "I would — yes, I would —"

"Father!" cried little George. "I will tell you the truth about it. I chopped the tree down with my hatchet."

His father forgot his anger. "George," he said, and he took the little fellow in his arms, "George, I am glad that you told me about it. I would rather lose a dozen cherry trees than that you should tell one lie."

1. 华盛顿故事二则

Ⅰ. 乔治·华盛顿和马

从前,有个邻居盗去了华盛顿的一匹马。华盛顿便同一位警察到邻人农场里去要马。可是,那个邻人拒绝归还那匹马,并断言说,这匹马是他的。

华盛顿用两只手捂住马的眼睛,对这个邻居说:"如果这匹马是你的,那么你必须说出马的哪只眼睛是瞎的。"

"右眼!"那个邻居说。

华盛顿挪开捂在马右眼上的手,向警察表明马的右眼并不瞎。

"嗨,我搞错啦,"邻居嚷道,"它的左眼是瞎的。"

华盛顿又向警察证实马的左眼也不瞎。

邻居说:"我又弄错了。"

"好啦,"警察说,"你同时也已证实了这匹马不是你的。你必须把这匹马交还给华盛顿先生。"

Ⅱ. 乔治·华盛顿和他的斧子

乔治·华盛顿很小的时候,他的父亲给了他一把斧子。这把斧子又亮又新。乔治特别喜欢带着它出去玩耍,用它砍东西。

他跑进花园,看到一棵树,这棵树好像对他说:"来吧,砍倒我吧!"

乔治经常看见父亲的工人在森林里把大树砍倒。他想，看着这棵树轰隆一声倒在地上，一定是一种很有趣的游戏。于是乔治用他的小斧子砍了起来，因为这棵树很小，所以他没用多长时间就把它砍倒了。

过了不久，他的父亲回家了。

“谁砍了我那棵可爱的小樱桃树？”他大声嚷道，“在我们这一带，这种树只有这一棵，是我花了很多钱买来的。”

他走进屋子时，非常生气。

“我要是弄清楚是谁砍死了这棵樱桃树，”他喊着，“我就要——对，我就要——”

“父亲！”小乔治喊道，“我告诉您是怎么回事儿吧。我用我的斧头把那棵树砍倒了。”

他的父亲怒气全消了。

“乔治”，他说着将这个小家伙搂进怀里，“乔治，我很高兴你告诉了我这件事，我宁愿丢掉一大批樱桃树，也不愿意你撒谎。”

Notes:

George Washington[ˈdʒɔːdʒ ˈwɔʃiŋtən] 乔治·华盛顿(1732—1799)，是美利坚合众国的首任总统、美利坚合众国的奠基人。

get the horse 去要马

refuse to give the horse up 拒绝归还那匹马 give up 放弃

claim[kleim] *vt.* 声言，宣称

I have made a mistake. 我搞错了。

prove[pruːv] *vt.* 证明，证实

belong to 属于

quite a little boy 年龄十分小的男孩 quite 表示相当；很，十分

hatchet[ˈhætʃit] *n.* 短柄小斧

delight[diˈlait] *n.* 快乐

take delight in 以……为乐

in going obout and chopping things with it going ... 和 chopping ... 两个动名词短语作介词 in 的宾语 go about 走动 chop[tʃɔp]*vt.* 砍,劈

George had often seen his father's men chop down the great trees ... chop down 动词不定式短语作 see 的宾语补足语。这种 see sb. do sth. 的结构中的动词不定式不带 to。

who has been cutting ... cherry tree? 该句动词时态是现在完成进行时,表示动作从过去某一时间开始一直延续到现在,这个动作可能刚刚停止,也可能仍然在进行着。cherry[tʃeri]*n.* 樱桃树

I would rather lose a dozen cherry trees than ...

1) would rather ... than ... 表示"宁可,宁愿"

would rather 后面加不带 to 的动词不定式。

2) dozen['dʌzn]*n.* 一打,十二个

2. Stories of Galileo

I . A Student Full of Questions

Galileo Galilei was born in Italy in the year 1564. His father had a small business in the city of Pisa. This city is in the north of Italy near the sea.

He had two brothers and four sisters, but they were born after him. He was the oldest child in the family.

In 1572 his father sent him to school. "You're eight years old now," he said, "and you're a clever boy. Work hard at school and don't waste your time. If you work well, your teacher will help you. Perhaps you'll be a doctor one day."

Galileo was certainly the cleverest pupil in his class, so his teacher was pleased with him. He was clever with his hands, too. He liked to draw and to paint pictures. He liked to play music.

In the evenings he often stayed at home and made his own toys. They were special toys, because they were little machines. They worked. His favourite machine could raise heavy things off the ground.

At night he sat outside and watched the stars. His young head was full of strange ideas. His friends laughed at him. "Galileo is dreaming again," they said. They were wrong, of course. His thoughts were far, but he was not dreaming. He was trying to explain things to himself.

Does our world look like the moon? Are the stars nearer than the sun? His teacher could not answer questions like these.

When he was seventeen years old, he went to Pisa University. Soon every teacher in the university knew him. Some did not like him, because he was too clever for them.

"You ask too many questions," they said. "You're only a boy. You must listen to us and you must accept our ideas."

"Some teachers have wrong ideas," replied Galileo. "They say that Aristotle was always right. But Aristotle lived two thousand years ago. Many things have changed since then."

"True things do not change."

"I know. But Aristotle made mistakes. He only knew a small corner of the world. Men are always finding out new facts. For example, Francis Drake has just sailed round the world; he returned to England last year."

"Do you think that Drake is cleverer than Aristotle?"

"No. But men like Drake and Columbus have taught us new facts. We must learn from life; we can't learn from books alone. Some things in Aristotle's books aren't true."

Many teachers were angry because he talked like this. Their answer was always the same: "The leaders of the Church say that his books are true. If you don't accept the Church's ideas, you'll soon be in trouble."

But Galileo did not think that this was a good answer. "The Church gives orders," he said, "but it doesn't give reasons. In these days men are beginning to think for themselves. You can't order them to accept ideas. You must explain your ideas to them, and you must be ready to answer their questions properly."

Galileo's life was full of questions. He tried to answer them himself. If possible he liked to find the answers by experiment. He liked to weigh things and to measure them.

"Archimedes is my teacher," he used to say. "He lived a long time ago, like Aristotle; but he made experiments and he tested his ideas properly. He wasn't just a writer. He was a real scientist."

Galileo always wanted to test his own ideas. "I test them with numbers first," he said. "Then I test them with my hands and eyes. If they give the same answer, it will usually be correct.

"For example, look at that pot and that box. One is round and one is square. Which holds the bigger amount of sand? We can measure them with a ruler and find the answer with numbers, but men make mistakes with numbers. We can weigh them with sand and without sand but we use numbers for that too.

"What can we do next? We can fill the pot with sand and empty it into the box. That will give a clear answer without numbers."

Of course his questions were harder than that. Why do things fall to the ground? Why do they not fall up to the sky? Why can heavy ships sit in the water? The cleverest teachers in the state could not tell him. He had to look for his own answers.

He did not always find them, but the questions themselves were important. Scientists were still looking for the answers to some questions a hundred years later.

II. Galileo and the Pendulum

Galileo often visited the big church in Pisa. He was not a very good artist himself, but he loved its pictures and its sculptures. It was

quiet there, too, so he could think.

One day, when he was sitting in the church, he noticed a lamp. It was hanging on a long cord. While he was looking at it, a boy came and lit it. Then the boy went away, but the lamp was still moving. It was swinging from side to side.

That was not unusual. Things will often swing, if they are hanging on a cord. But he was watching the swings with special care. "That's strange," he thought. "Every swing takes the same amount of time." He pushed the lamp and watched again. At first it made long swings. Then they grew shorter. But the short swings and the long ones took the same time.

Galileo wanted to be certain. He wanted to test the time of every swing. "There isn't a clock in the church," he said to himself, "but I don't need one. I can feel my pulse."

He was learning to be a doctor, so he knew the use of a pulse. "Hold your arm, just above your hand," his teacher used to say, "and you'll feel the pulse. It is pumping your blood. If you're sitting, it will pump slowly. If you're running, it will pump quickly. Also if you're ill, it will usually pump your blood quickly."

So Galileo felt his pulse and watched the swings of the lamp. Yes. Every swing was taking the same time.

Then he went home. He got a cord and a heavy piece of iron. He fixed the iron to the end of the cord, and he allowed it to swing. Then he tested the swings, and they were slower than his pulse. "My pulse pumps seventy-two times in a minute," he said. "If I use a shorter cord, perhaps it will be quicker."

He tested this idea and it was correct. Now the swings were quicker than his pulse; so the cord was too short. He tried again and

again. At last the swings were just right. The cord was swinging seventy-two times in a minute.

"This idea could help doctors in their work," he thought. He made a small machine, and he showed it to his teachers. They were pleased.

"You wind this cord round the top of the machine," he told them. "You fix this iron to the bottom of the cord, and you allow it to swing. If you want a shorter cord you wind it up. If you want a longer cord, you wind it down.

"There's a mark on the cord, and there are numbers on the machine. When the mark is beside number 72, the cord will swing seventy-two times in a minute. When it's beside number 80, it will swing eighty times. This cord is the pendulum of the machine. It must hang freely and swing freely. Don't move the machine while the pendulum is swinging."

With this machine a doctor could measure a man's pulse quickly and correctly. Galileo made many copies of it, and he sold them to doctors. In 1607 a doctor at Padua University wrote a book about his own work, and he showed pictures of Galileo's machines. There were three kinds. The best one had a face like a clock.