

A Collection of English Stories

# 英语故事大王

The King's White Elephant

• 国王的白象 •



• 英汉对照 •

★ 在娱乐中学习英语  
大赛必胜

A COLLECTION OF ENGLISH STORIES

# 英语故事大王

## ——国王的白象

*The King's White Elephant*

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## 前 言

这套英语故事大王,可以供学龄前儿童、小学学生以及初中学生参加英语故事大赛使用,也可作为英语课外读物。

故事大赛一般要求选手们在5分钟之内,用英汉双语讲完故事,因此本书所选英语故事的长度,控制在能够让选手们用大约两分半钟讲完,每个故事后面附有其中文译文。

本书所选故事短小精悍,比较口语化,兼顾趣味性、思想性和知识性,大多是那些流传已久、在世界各国颇受欢迎的童话、幽默故事和民间传说等。这些有趣且有益的故事,在帮助我们提高英语水平的同时,也会让我们在心智上得到良多教益。

学习英语并能够声情并茂地用英语讲故事,是一件有吸引力的事情,也是一个不小的挑战,更是一条学好英语的佳径。该书还可以作为提高英语阅读能力的读物。在阅读时,只要能看懂文章就可以,不要逐字推敲,这样既可以培养阅读兴趣,又可以避免只见树木不见林。只要持之以恒,定会为以后的英语学习打下坚实的基础。

由于时间和水平所限,疏漏之处在所难免,敬请读者批评指正。

编 者



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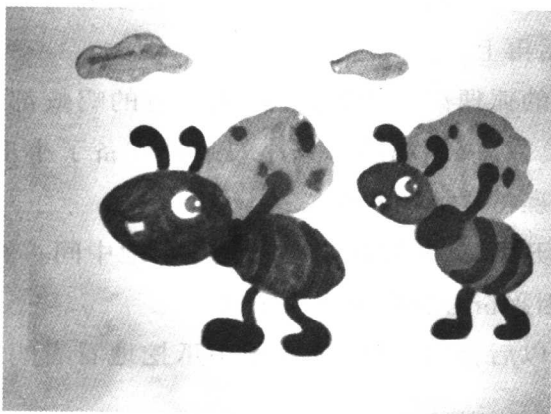




## 1 Why Ants Dig

Grandmother ant lived with her three grandchild ants. All the ants respected grandmother ant for her old age and wisdom.

One day the fox challenged grandmother ant to a digging race and her grand children forced her into saying yes. The race was to see who could touch the middle of the earth and come back up first.



All the foxes wanted the fox to win and all the ants wanted grandmother ant to win. Grandmother ant gave all the ants very small claws to show how much she wanted to win.

The race had started and grandmother ant was the first to



get to the middle of the earth. On the way up she had a heart attack and died of the excitement.

Ever since all the ants have been using their claws to dig, trying to find out what happened to grandmother ant.

## 1 蚂蚁为什么挖地

蚂蚁奶奶和她的三个孙子孙女生活在一起。所有的蚂蚁都尊敬奶奶,她年长且富有智慧。

一天,狐狸向蚂蚁奶奶挑战,进行一场挖地比赛。她的孙子孙女都极力说服奶奶同意。比赛是要看看谁先挖到地中间,然后再上来。

所有的狐狸都希望狐狸赢,而所有的蚂蚁都希望蚂蚁奶奶获胜。蚂蚁奶奶给每只小蚂蚁都配备了小爪,可见她是多么想赢得这场比赛呀。

比赛开始了,蚂蚁奶奶率先到达了地中间。然而,返回时,她却因兴奋心脏病发作丢了命。

从那以后,所有蚂蚁都要用小爪挖地看看蚂蚁奶奶到底怎么了。



## 2 Androcles and Benjamin

There was once a lion called Benjamin. He was very big and strong, and his mane was long and silky.

Every night Benjamin went down to the river to drink his fill in the light of the setting sun. One evening on the way up the bank he fell into a thorny bush. He wrenched himself free, but as he went on his way, he realized he had a thorn in his foot.

As he hobbled along he saw a poor slave called Androcles who had run away from his cruel master. Benjamin stopped, looked at Androcles and thought, "This human looks kind. Will he help me with my bad foot?"

He held up his paw to Androcles, who knelt down and gently pulled the thorn out.

Soon after, Androcles was caught by his cruel master and as a punishment for running away, he would have to fight a lion in front of the Emperor. Benjamin was caught, too, by some hunters.

Androcles stood in front of the Emperor, and all the people were waiting for the lion. He was very frightened. The captured lion in the cage was frightened, too.

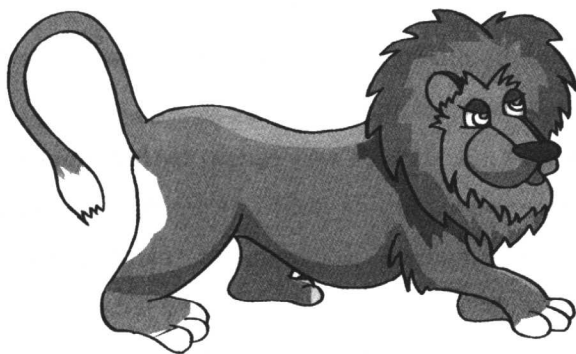


The lion was let out of the cage, and came bounding towards Androcles. He stopped, greatly surprised. Androcles stopped, greatly surprised, too. Benjamin rolled over on his back with all four feet in the air, thinking, "It's that kind human being who healed my paw." They did not fight as expected.

Seeing what had happened, the Emperor was so surprised that he let them both go free, and they went back to the forest and lived happily ever after.

## 2 安德鲁克里斯和本杰明

从前有头狮子叫本杰明。他高大强壮，长长的鬃毛丝一般光滑。



每天晚上，本杰明都会在夕阳西下之时，到下面的河里喝个饱。一天晚上，他从河岸往上爬时，掉进了荆棘丛里。



他挣扎着钻了出来,但是往回走的路上,他感觉到脚掌上扎了根刺。

正当他步履蹒跚地走着的时候,他看到一个名叫安德鲁克里斯的奴隶,他刚从残酷的奴隶主那逃出来。本杰明停下来,看了看安德鲁克里斯,心想:“这个人看上去面善。他会帮我处理一下受伤的吗?”

他把爪子伸向安德鲁克里斯,安德鲁克里斯跪下来,把刺轻轻地拔了出来。

不久,安德鲁克里斯被凶残的主人抓了起来。为了对他的逃跑表示惩罚,他必须当着皇帝的面跟一头狮子角斗。本杰明也被一些猎人捕获了。

安德鲁克里斯站在皇帝面前,所有人都在等待狮子的到来。他非常害怕,而被捕的狮子在笼子中也很害怕。

狮子被放出笼子,朝着安德鲁克里斯扑去。他突然很吃惊地停住了。安德鲁克里斯也停住了脚步,同样十分惊讶。本杰明伸着四只爪子在地上翻滚,心想:“是那个治好我爪子的好人呀。”他们并没有厮打在一起,大大出乎人们的意料。

看见眼前发生的事,皇帝大为吃惊,就赦免了他们两个。于是,他们回到森林中去,从此过着快乐的日子。



### 3 Athena

On one occasion Zeus suffered a bad headache. All the gods, including Apollo, the god of medicine, had tried uselessly to offer an effective treatment. Then the father of gods and men asked Hephaestus to open his head. This the god of the fire did. To the wonder of all the Olympians, a goddess, well-grown and full-armed, came out of Zeus' head. The goddess was giving off light and splendor. She was Athena, goddess of wisdom and knowledge and patroness of Athens.

The story of Athena becoming patron goddess of Athens concerns the struggle between the goddess and Poseidon. When the city of Athens was first built by a Phoenician, both Poseidon and Athena competed for the honors of naming it. It was then agreed that whoever offered the most useful object for men would become the patron of the city. Poseidon struck the ground with his trident and produced a horse, whereas Athena had an olive tree to present, a symbol of peace and plenty. As the horse was regarded as struggle and sorrow, Athens was named after the goddess, who soon took the city under her protection.

Athena was the goddess of arts and crafts and woman's



handiwork. She was so skilled with her hands that she tolerated no challenge to her skill in this respect. A Lydian maid, Arachne by name, did not seem to think much of Athena's skill, for she frequently talked big that she could beat the goddess if she had the chance to do so. The goddess was quite angry. Dressed up as an old woman, she went to advise Arachne to be modest. But the ignorant crafts woman bravely asked the goddess herself to come down and compete with her. At this the goddess took off her disguise and accepted the competition. The two women immediately set about making different designs.

While the goddess worked on the story of her rivalry with Poseidon, Arachne began to make a delicate web. When both pieces were finished, Arachne saw, to her surprise, that she had been beaten, for the goddess' design was infinitely better. She felt so shamed that she tied a piece of silk to hang herself. But just before she breathed her last breath the goddess changed her into a spider and let her weave forever.

### 3 雅典娜

有一次,宙斯头疼得厉害,包括药神阿波罗在内的众神都无法治好他。众神与人类之父宙斯只好让火神赫斐斯托斯打开他的头颅。火神照做了。令奥林匹斯山诸神大吃一



惊的是：一位体态婀娜、披坚执锐的女神从裂开的头颅中走了出来，她光彩照人，仪态万方。她便是智慧与知识女神雅典娜，也是雅典的守护神。

雅典娜成为雅典守护神的传说和女神与波塞冬之间的争斗有关。当雅典城最早由一个腓尼基人建成时，波塞冬与雅典娜争夺为之命名的荣耀。最后他们达成协议：能为人类提供最有用的东西的人将成为该城的守护神。波塞冬用他的三叉戟敲打地面变出了一匹战马，而雅典娜则变出了一棵橄榄树——和平与富裕的象征。由于战马被认为代表战争与悲伤，因此雅典就以女神的名字命名。女神很快让该城处于她的庇佑之下。

雅典娜是艺术、工艺和妇女手工之神，她双手灵巧，无法忍受别人的挑战。一位名叫阿瑞克妮的莉迪亚族少女，似乎瞧不起雅典娜的本领，常吹嘘如有机会定能击败女神雅典娜。女神非常生气，便装扮成一位老妇，劝告阿瑞克妮应谦虚一些。但那位愚昧无知的女手艺人，竟勇敢地向她发出挑战，让女神亲自来和自己比试。女神卸去伪装，接受了挑战。两位妇女立刻着手创作各自的作品。

女神设计的图案叙述了她与波塞冬争斗的故事，而阿瑞克妮则开始编织一张精细的网。两件作品完工之后，阿瑞克妮吃惊地发现自己输了，因为女神的作品毫无疑问要好得多。她羞愧难当，便用一根丝线自缢。但在她咽气之前，女神将她变成了一只蜘蛛，让她永远地编织。





## 4 Who's the Fairest of Them All?

Hercules, Snow White and Quasimodo were all having lunch together. Hercules said, "I have always thought that I'm the strongest man in the world, but how can I be sure?" Snow White agreed. "I'm told I'm the fairest of them all, but sometimes I wonder." Quasimodo said, "I'm pretty sure I'm the ugliest human alive, but I've never had it confirmed."

They all decided that the best way to find out if their beliefs were true was to pray about it that night and ask God to confirm for them whether Hercules was the strongest, Snow White was the fairest and Quasimodo was the ugliest. They agreed to meet again the next day for lunch to discuss their findings.

The next day Hercules walked up with a smile. "Well, it's true. God told me that I am the strongest man in the world." Snow White perked up and said, "And I now know for sure that I'm the fairest, for God confirmed it." But Quasimodo lifted his sad face and asked, "Who is Linda Tripp?"