

A Collection of English Stories

英语故事大王

The Decision

• 抉择 •



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青岛出版社

A COLLECTION OF ENGLISH STORIES

英语故事大王

——抉择

The Decision

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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 The Mule

A couple was celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. Their domestic tranquility had long been the talk of the town, and on this special occasion, a local newspaper reporter paid them a visit. He inquired the secret of their long and happy marriage.

“Well,” explained the husband, “it all goes back to our honeymoon. We visited the Grand Canyon and took a trip down to the bottom of the canyon by a mule”.

“We hadn’t gone too far when my wife’s mule stumbled. My wife quietly said, ‘That’s once.’ We proceeded a little farther when the mule stumbled again. Once more my wife quietly spoke, ‘That’s twice.’ We hadn’t gone a half-mile when the mule stumbled a third time. My wife promptly removed a revolver from her purse, hopped down off the beast, and shot the mule dead.”

“I started to protest over her treatment of the mule when she looked at me and quietly said, ‘That’s once.’”

1 骡 子

一对夫妇在庆祝他们的金婚纪念日。他们多年的和睦



相处在镇上向来传为佳话。在这个特殊的日子，当地的新闻记者去访问他们。记者请求他们讲出多年以来婚姻幸福的秘诀。

“好的，”丈夫说，“事情还得从我们度蜜月时说起。我们去游览大峡谷，往谷底去的时候我们骑的是一头骡子。”

“还没走多远，我们的骡子就跌倒在地上，我妻子不动声色地说：‘第一次了。’我们接着往前走，骡子又跌倒在地上，我妻子又不动声色地说：‘第二次了。’接下来还没走半英里，骡子又一次跌倒在地上，我妻子立即从皮包里掏出手枪，跳下骡子，开枪把骡子打死了。”

“她这样残忍地把骡子打死，我开始抗议，她看着我，不动声色地说：‘第一次了。’”





2 Cuckoo Clock

One night, a guy was invited out by his friends. He promised his live-in girlfriend that he would be home by midnight. Well, the hours passed and the beer was going down smooth, and before he knew it, it was 2:30 a. m. Drunk as a skunk, he headed for home.

Just as he got in the door, the cuckoo clock in the hall started up and cuckooed three times.

Quickly, he realized that she'd probably wake up, so he was quite proud of himself when he thought to cuckoo nine more times. Even in his drunken haze, he fell asleep smiling about how he had escaped a possible conflict.

The next morning, his girlfriend asked him what time he got in, and he replied, "Twelve." She didn't seem disturbed at all, which made the guy feel even better.

She then told him that they needed a new cuckoo clock.

"Why is that?" he asked.

"Well, last night our clock cuckooed three times, said, 'Oh, crap,' cuckooed four more times, cleared its throat, cuckooed another three times, giggled, cuckooed twice more, and then farted."



2 布谷鸟闹钟

一天晚上,朋友们邀请小伙子一块出去玩。这个小伙子向和他住在一起的女朋友保证半夜之前一定赶回来。时间一小时一小时地过去,啤酒一杯一杯往肚里灌。等到他意识到时间不早时,已经是第二天凌晨两点半了。这个人醉得一塌糊涂,开始往家走去。

他刚一进门,门厅里的布谷鸟钟开始报时,传来三声布谷鸟叫。

这时,他意识到他的女朋友有可能会醒来,于是他学着布谷鸟的声音又叫了九声。他很为自己的聪明才智自豪不已。尽管现在他已经醉得晕乎乎的,但是想到自己有可能避免了一场冲突,他还是笑咪咪地进入了梦乡。

第二天早上他女朋友问他是什么时候回来的,他说:“十二点。”她看上去一点儿也没有怀疑,这让这个小伙子感觉更加得意。

这时她建议他们买一个新的布谷鸟钟。

“为什么呀?”他问。

“你不知道,昨天晚上我们的布谷鸟钟叫了三次,然后说:‘噢,废物,’然后又叫了四声,清了清嗓子,又叫了三声,嘿嘿笑了一声,又叫了两声,然后放了一个屁。”



3 Wind Sure Does Blow

A visitor asked a West Texas cowboy, “Do you ever get tornadoes out here?” The cowboy replied, “Yeah, we had one a while back, but it ran into a sandstorm outside of town and got ripped to pieces.” The wind blows so hard out in West Texas that at a drive-in theater it once blew Gene Autry right out of the saddle.

A visitor to Amarillo asked a local rancher, “How do you stand the wind blowing every single day?” The rancher said, “You just have to get used to it—learn to lean into it. In fact, one day last fall the wind stopped blowing all of a sudden, and all the cattle in plumb fell over.”

It was so windy that the prairie dogs were digging holes 40 feet in the air.

During a period of heavy sandstorms, a rancher visited his banker and applied for a loan. The banker warned him, “I’ll have to come out and inspect the property first.” The rancher replied, “That won’t be necessary. Here it comes now.”



3 风确实很大

一位游客问一个得克萨斯州西部牛仔：“你们在这里有过龙卷风吗？”牛仔回答道：“有啊，我们刚才还吹过一场龙卷风呢，只不过它在城外撞上一场沙暴，威力便丧失殆尽了。”得克萨斯西部的风如此之大，在一个汽车影院里，风竟然把荧屏上吉恩·奥奇^①从马鞍上吹落下来。

一位游客去阿马瑞洛旅游，问一个当地农场主：“每天的风都这么大，你们怎么受得了？”农场主说：“你必须得习惯——要学会迎着风的方向把身体向前倾。实际上，去年秋天有一天风突然停了下来，所有西弗吉尼亚州的牛都齐刷刷地倒在地上。”

风是如此之大，草原上的牧羊犬们竟然在空气中扬起的尘沙中挖了 40 英尺的洞。

在一阵猛烈的沙尘暴中，一位牧场主去拜访一位银行家，申请贷款。银行家警告他说：“我必须先去你的牧场评估一下你的资产。”牧场主回答说：“你不用去了。我的资产已经被风刮来了。”

注：①吉恩·奥奇：美国著名的牛仔出身的歌手和演员。



4 Penance for Politicians

A well-known politician dies and goes to heaven. At the Pearly Gates he is met by St. Peter who says, "You committed a few teeny weenie sins when you were alive, didn't you, such as lying? Since you did so much good generally for your country, we'll let you in, but you'll have to do penance for two years. You will have to spend that time with this woman."

At this, the most hideously deformed, smelly, gossiping woman appears. The politician appears to blanch slightly, but says, "Fair enough, I guess it's worth an eternity in paradise."

So St. Peter leads him through a door into a vast chamber, filled with white-robed couples, chatting and laughing with each other. Sweet music and the aroma of rose blossom fill the air, and angels and cherubs flutter about.

Suddenly the politician notices his old rival, whose death had preceded his by a matter of weeks. Amazingly, this man is arm in arm with a beautiful model.

"What the hell is this!" storms the politician. "That man was the worst thing to happen to my country for 200 years. He destroyed everything I stood for, and was totally dishonest in doing it. How come I get two years with this hag, while he gets to cavort with a beautiful model?"



“Now steady on,” says St. Peter.

“That’s not your rival doing his penance, it’s the model doing hers.”

4 政客赎罪

一个著名的政客死了，去了天国。在天国门前他遇到圣彼得，圣彼得说：“你活着时犯了些小罪，是不是？比如说撒谎。总的说来你为你的国家做出了许多有益的事情，我们会让你进天国的，但是你必须用两年的时间来赎罪。这两年你必须和这个女人一起过。”

彼得话音刚落，一个严重畸形，又脏又臭，整天唠叨不停的女人出现了。看到这样一个女人，政客吓得脸都有点白了，可是他说：“很公平，为了得到永远的天国，与这样一个女人一起度过两年也值得。”

所以圣彼得领着他走过一道门，来到一个大房间，里面有许多穿着白袍的夫妻，他们在说说笑笑。空气中飘着甜美的音乐和玫瑰花的芳香气味，大小天使在空中飞来飞去。

突然，这个政客看到他昔日的政敌，这位政敌比他先死了几周。令人惊奇的是，这个政敌的胳膊里挽着一个漂亮的模特。

“这究竟是怎么回事！”政治家咆哮起来，“那个人是我们国家两个世纪以来最大的败类！他破坏了我所主张的一切，做事的时候一点也不诚实。为什么我要和这个丑老太婆度过这两年，而他就能和一名漂亮的模特去快活呢？”

“好了，不要生气。”圣彼得说，“这不是你的政敌在为自己赎罪，而是那个模特在为自己赎罪。”