

A Collection of English Stories

英语故事大王

What Goes Around Comes Around

• 一报还一报 •



在娱乐中学习英语
大赛必胜
• 英汉对照 •

青岛出版社

A COLLECTION OF ENGLISH STORIES

英语故事大王

——一报还一报

What Goes Around Comes Around.

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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 Wise Choice

A gay young man, who earned his living as a drummer in a band, and his wife were looking for somewhere to live. They saw a lot of places, but there was always something that one of them did not like about them. At last, however, they found a block of new flats which both of them really liked. However, there was still the problem of whether they should take one of the ground-floor flats, which had a small garden, or one of the upstairs ones.

At last, they decided on a first-floor flat—neither too low down nor too high up—and moved in. After they had bought furniture, carpets, curtains, and the rest, they gave a big party to celebrate the setting up of their first home together.

It was a gay and noisy party, as all the host's friends from the band came and played their instruments, danced, sang and practiced on their host's drums.

Soon after one a. m. the telephone rang. The hostess went to answer it in the hall. After she had finished, she came back with a happy smile on her face and said to her husband, "That was the man who had just moved into the flat downstairs telephoning, dear. I am so glad we decided not to choose it. He says it is terribly noisy down there."



1 明智的选择

一个活泼的小伙子，在乐队当鼓手谋生。他和妻子正在找地方住。他俩看过很多地方，但总有一些情况使其中一人不满意。不过，他们终于找到了一栋他们都真正满意的新公寓大楼。然而，又有一个问题：他们该住在带小花园的一层，还是该住在楼上呢？



最后，他们决定住二楼——不高不低——并搬了进去。买了家具、地毯、窗帘以及其他用品后，他们举行了一次盛大的聚会来共同庆祝他们乔迁新居。

聚会活跃、热闹，男主人乐队的朋友都来了，各人演奏了各自的乐器。客人们跳舞、唱歌，还学着敲男主人的鼓。

凌晨一点刚过，电话铃响起来了。女主人到门厅去接电话。她接完电话后，面带微笑回来了，对丈夫说：“是楼下刚搬来的那位先生打的电话，亲爱的。我真为我们没选楼下感到高兴。他说楼下的噪声大得太可怕啦。”



2 The Most Valuable Thing

Nasreddin sat drinking coffee and talking with some of his old friends. One of the things they discussed was the difference between one person's sense of values and another's. After some minutes, one of Nasreddin's friends said to him, "Well, Nasreddin, you are a wise man, but you have said nothing on this subject yet. What do you consider to be the most valuable thing in the world?"

Nasreddin answered without hesitation, "I consider advice the most valuable thing in the world."

His friends thought about this for a few moments, and then one of them asked him, "And what do you consider the most worthless thing in the world?"

Again Nasreddin replied without hesitating for a moment, "I consider advice the most worthless thing in the world."

"Really!" said one of his friends. "You must be joking, Nasreddin! A minute ago you said that advice is the most valuable thing in the world, and now you say that it is the most worthless thing in the world! How can it be both the most valuable and the most worthless?"

"Well," answered Nasreddin, "if you think about the matter carefully, you will see that I am not joking, and that I am quite right. When you give somebody good advice, and he



takes it, advice is the most valuable thing in the world. But when you give a person advice and he does not take it, it is the most worthless thing in the world.”

2 最有价值的东西

纳斯瑞丁坐着一边喝咖啡，一边和几个老朋友聊天。他们谈论的其中一件事是人与人之间价值观的不同。过了几分钟，纳斯瑞丁的一个朋友对他说：“喂，纳斯瑞丁，你是个有见识的人，但对这个话题你还什么也没说。你认为世界上什么最有价值呢？”

纳斯瑞丁毫不犹豫地回答说：“我认为世界上最有价值的是忠告。”

朋友们对这句话想了一会儿，然后他们中的一个问纳斯瑞丁：“那么你认为世界上最没价值的是什么呢？”

纳斯瑞丁还是一点也不犹豫地回答说：“我认为世界上最没有价值的是忠告。”

“是吗！”他的那位朋友说，“你一定是在开玩笑吧，纳斯瑞丁！刚才你说忠告是世界上最宝贵的东西，而现在你又说它是世界上最没价值的东西！它怎么能既是最有价值的又是最没价值的呢？”

“哦，”纳斯瑞丁回答说，“假如你仔细想想这个问题，就会明白我不是在开玩笑，而且说得完全正确。你给别人一条很好的忠告，他接受了，那么这条忠告就是世界上最宝贵的东西。但是你给别人忠告，而别人不接受，那么它就是世界上最没价值的东西。”



3 Avoiding His Duty

Nasreddin had to preach in the mosque every Friday, but he did not like this duty at all, and was always looking for ways to avoid it. One Friday he had a good idea. When he went up to preach to the people in the mosque, he said to them, "Do you know what I am going to talk to you about?"

They were surprised and answered, "No, we don't."

Then Nasreddin said, "Well, if you do not know anything about such an important matter, it is a waste of time for me to talk to you about it." And he went down without preaching to the people.

The next Friday, he again asked the question, "Do you know what I am going to talk to you about today?"

This time the people thought that they had learnt their lesson, so they all said, "Yes, we do."

Then Nasreddin said to them, "Well, it is a waste of time to tell people things that they already know." And again he went down without preaching to the people.

The third Friday, Nasreddin again said, "Do you know what I am going to preach to you about today?" But this time some people answered, "Yes"; and some answered, "No."

"Well," said Nasreddin, "If some of you know, and some of you do not, those that do can tell those that do not."



And again he went down without saying another word.

3 逃避责任

每个礼拜五，纳斯瑞丁都得去清真寺讲道，但他根本不喜欢这个职务，并且总是想办法逃避。有个礼拜五，他想出一个好办法。当他走上清真寺的讲坛开始向人们讲道时，他对人们说：“你们知道我要给你们讲些什么道吗？”

人们感到很奇怪，就回答说：“不，我们不知道。”

于是纳斯瑞丁说：“好，如果你们对这么重要的事一点也不知道，那么我讲道也是浪费时间了。”接着他就走下讲坛，不再给人们讲道。

第二个礼拜五，纳斯瑞丁又提出这个问题：“你们知道今天我要给你们讲什么道吗？”

这次人们以为已经吸取了上次的教训，所以他们都说：“是的，我们知道。”

于是纳斯瑞丁说：“既然如此，给人们讲他们已经知道的事是浪费时间。”他又一次走下了讲坛，不再给人们讲道。

第三个礼拜五，纳斯瑞丁又说：“你们知道我今天要给你们讲的道吗？”这一次有人回答：“知道。”另外有人回答：“不知道。”

“好，”纳斯瑞丁说，“如果有人知道，有人不知道，那么知道的人可以告诉不知道的人。”接着他再一次走下讲坛，不再多说一句话。



4 Which Sledge Is Better?

It was Saturday, so Mr. Smith did not have to go to work. It had snowed heavily the night before, and Mr. Smith's young son Bobby had a new sledge, which he was very eager to try out. There was a good slope in a park not far from the Smiths' house, which children often used for their sledges, so Mr. Smith agreed to take Bobby there in the car. They put the sledge in and went off.

When they reached the park, they found that there were already a lot of boys there with their sledges. They were sliding down the slope at great speed, and then pulling their sledges up again for another go.

After a few minutes, Mr. Smith noticed that there was one poorly-dressed little boy there who did not have a sledge. This boy had flattened out an old cardboard box, and was sliding down the slope on that. Mr. Smith felt very sorry for this poor boy, and determined to ask Bobby to lend him his sledge for a few minutes.

But before he could catch Bobby to speak to him, he was surprised—and delighted—to notice that several of the older boys in the park were lending the poor boy their sledges. Mr. Smith watched them carefully—and suddenly realized that the bigger boys were not doing this because they felt sorry for the



poor boy, but because they enjoyed riding on his cardboard box more than on their expensive sledges. They were actually waiting impatiently for a turn on the flattened cardboard box.

4 哪个雪橇更好？

这天是周六，史密斯先生不用去上班。前一天夜里雪下得很大，史密斯先生的小儿子博比有一架新雪橇，他急切地盼望着试一试。在史密斯家附近的公园里有一个不错的斜坡，孩子们常常在那里滑雪橇，于是史密斯先生就同意开车带博比去那里。他们带上雪橇就出发了。

当他们到达公园时，发现已经有很多带着雪橇的男孩在那里了。男孩们都在飞速地滑下斜坡，然后拉着他们的雪橇上坡，再一次滑下去。

几分钟后，史密斯注意到有一个衣服破旧的男孩没有雪橇。这个男孩把一个旧纸箱摊开，坐在上面往下滑。史密斯先生非常可怜这个穷孩子，决定让博比把雪橇借给他滑一会儿。

但是他还没来得及把博比叫回来说话，他又惊又喜地看到公园里好几个大男孩正把他们的雪橇借给那个穷孩子。史密斯先生仔细地看他们——他突然明白了，这些大男孩这么做并不是出于对这个穷孩子的同情，而是因为他们觉得在纸箱上比在昂贵的雪橇上滑更带劲儿。实际上，他们都不耐烦地等着在这个摊开的纸箱上滑一回呢！



5 Film Work and Television Work

Mary was very fond of television, so when she met a young man who worked for a television company, she was very interested and asked him a lot of questions. She discovered that he had also worked for a film company, so she asked him whether there was any difference between film work and television work.

“Well,” answered the young man, “there is one very big difference. If someone makes a mistake while a film is being made, it is, of course, possible to stop and do the scene again. In fact, one can do it over and over again. A lot of mistakes waste time, money and film, but the audiences who see the film when it is finished don’t know that anything went wrong. In a live television show, on the other hand, the audience can see any mistakes that are made.”

“I can tell you a story about that. One day, a live television show was going on, and one of the actors was supposed to have been shot. He fell to the ground, and the camera moved somewhere else to allow time for me to run out with a bottle of tomato sauce to put on to him to look like blood. But unfortunately the camera turned back to him before I had finished, and the audience saw me pouring the sauce on to the man.”

“Oh, how terrible!” Mary said. “And what did you do?”