



英语注释读物

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陕西人民出版社



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说 明

本书是英语注释读物，可作为中学生和英语自学者的阅读材料。书中选编了28篇各国广为流传、脍炙人口的寓言、神话、民间传说和短篇文学名著，多取材于国外的教材、期刊或名著的缩写本。各篇文章基本上是按难易程度由浅入深编排的。文中难点的注释力求简明扼要，对某些惯用法和比较重要的语法现象，我们也适当地加以分析和例释。书末附有词汇表，以便读者查考。

我们期望本书对读者学习英语有所裨益。由于水平有限，错误之处敬请读者批评指正。

钟哈德同志曾参加过本书的选编工作，谨此致谢。

编 者

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词汇表

1. A PROUD CROW

A proud crow was tired of ¹ his own black feather. He did not like crows. He wished to be a bird of an other kind. One day he found a lot of peacock feathers. He stuck them all over his back.

"Just look, " he said to himself. "Am I not as beautiful as a peacock²? In fact, I am a peacock. I am no longer³ a crow. " He walked proudly up and down⁴ before his friends.

"Hello, old friend, " the other crows said. "You are so very beautiful. Where did you get those feathers? "

The proud crow was angry and said, "Don't speak to me. I have nothing to do with⁵ you crows⁶. I have peacock feathers, and so I am a peacock. A peacock is not a crow. Any fool knows that. "

The proud crow went to the peacocks and wished to be one of them.

"How do you do, my dear friends? " he said.

"Who are you? " asked the peacocks.

"Why, I am a peacock. Don't you see my fine feathers? "

"Fine feathers? But fine feathers do not make a fine bird. We threw these old feathers away long ago, you foolish crow. "

The peacocks pulled off⁷ all his fine feathers and some of his own black feathers too. The foolish crow could not make friends with⁸ peacocks. He came back to his old friends.

"How do you do? " he said.

"Who are you? " asked the crows.

"Why, I am a crow, don't you see my black feathers? "

"No, you are not," answered they. " A few old peacock feathers.⁹ A peacock is not a crow. Any fool knows that."

"I am very sorry," wept the poor crow. " Please excuse me, and I will be a nice crow."

The crows saw that he was no longer proud. They were kind to him and gave him a chance to be a nice crow¹⁰.

NOTES

1. was tired of; 对……感到厌倦。 2. as beautiful

as a peacock; 象孔雀一样美丽。 3. no longer; 不再。
4. up and down; 来回地。 5. have nothing to do with
...; 和……没有关系。 6. you crows; crows 是 you 的同
位语, 进一步说明其身份。 7. pull off; 拔去(羽毛)。
8. make friends with; 和……交朋友。 9. A few old
peacock feathers. ; 这是一个省略句, 为的是突出用来假扮
的几根孔雀毛, 增强了嘲讽的意味。原句的意思是 Didn't
you have a few old peacock feathers on you? 10. to be a
nice crow; 不定式短语用作定语, 修饰 chance。

2. THE ELEPHANT AND THE MONKEY

Once upon a time¹ an elephant and a monkey had a quarrel.

The elephant was proud because he was so strong.

"Look how big and strong I am!" he said. "I can pull a tree down, can you?"

Now the monkey was proud because he was so quick. "Look how fast I can run and climb!" he said.

"Can you climb a tree?"

At last they went to a wise old owl. "We cannot agree," they said. "Tell us what you think about it. Which is better—to be strong, or to be quick?"

The owl said to them, "Do just as I tell you³, and then I shall find out⁴ which is better. Do you see that great fruit tree across the river? Go and pick the fruit and bring it to me."

So the elephant and the monkey went to the river, but the water was swift and the monkey was afraid.

"Get on my back," said the elephant proudly. "I

shall carry you. I am big and strong, and I am not afraid to swim across a swift river. ”

Soon they got to the other bank. There stood the tree.⁵ It was so tall that the fruit hung high above them.⁶

The elephant tried to break the tree down, but it was too strong. He tried to reach the fruit with his trunk, but it was too high.

“Wait a minute, I can climb, ” said the monkey proudly. He ran quickly up the tree, and threw the rich, ripe fruit⁷ to the ground. The elephant put it in his big mouth.

Then they crossed the river again, and gave the owl some of the fruit they had picked. “Now, ” they said, “which is better—to be strong, or to be quick?”

“Can anyone tell which is better? ” asked the owl.

“Neither of you could get the fruit alone.⁸ It took both the elephant’s strength and the monkey’s quickness to get it. ”

NOTES

1. Once upon a time; 从前 (常用于故事的开头) 。
2. Which is better—to be strong, or to be quick? 破折

号后面的不定式短语是解释性的插入语。3. Do just as I tell you: 照我说的那样去做。这里 just as 意为“正象”，引出方式方法状语从句。4. find out: 弄清楚。5. There stood the tree: 是倒装句。由 here, there, now 等引起的句子，常用倒装语序。6. It is so tall that ...: so...that...是一种句型，这里的意思是“如此……以致……”。7. the rich, ripe fruit = the rich and ripe fruit. 8. Neither of you could get the fruit alone: 你们俩都无法单独摘到果子。

3. THE CLEVER SERVANT

This is an old story. It was first told long ago. A rich man wanted to make a journey to another town¹. He was a businessman. He wanted to take things to sell. He also wanted to take gold to buy things with.² He decided to take ten servants with him. They would carry the things to sell and the gold, and also food to eat on the journey.

He was a kind man. He said to one of his servants, "You are the smallest, the thinnest and the weakest of all my servants. You cannot carry a heavy load. You must choose the lightest load to carry. "

The servant thanked his master. He pointed to the biggest load. This was the bread to eat on the journey.

His master said, "You are foolish. That is the biggest and heaviest load. " But the servant lifted up the load cheerfully and the journey began. They walked for four hours. Then they stopped for a rest.³ They all ate some of the bread. Then there was less bread for the

servant to carry. Every day they ate more bread and there was less bread to carry.⁴ The servant's load grew smaller and lighter every day. At the end of⁵ the journey, the clever servant had nothing to carry.

NOTES

1. to make a journey to another town; 到另一城镇去旅行。2. to take gold to buy things with; 带些金子去买东西。3. Then they stopped for a rest; 然后, 他们停下来休息。这里 for 表示目的。4. Every day they ate more bread and there was less bread to carry.; 一天又一天, 他们吃掉的面包越多, 携带的就越少了。5. At the end of...; 到……的最后。

4. THE TIGER AND THE SQUIRREL

Once upon a time there lived a proud and cantankerous tiger who ruled supreme in a dense mountain forest¹ and terrorized all the other animals in the wilderness nearby.

One day, the tiger found himself trapped in a hunter's net². No matter how³ hard he tried, he couldn't free himself. Just as he was about to give up hope from exhaustion⁴, he saw a squirrel bounding happily from one tree-top to another, so he shouted at the top of his voice,

"Help! Help!"⁵ When the kind-hearted squirrel saw the king of all animals trapped in the hunter's net, she quickly ran down a tree, scurried to the tiger, and gnawed a big hole through the net.

Freed⁶, the cruel tiger thought to himself, "What a shame to have to ask, strong as I am,⁷ a tiny squirrel to help free me from the hunter's trap. What if⁸ the squirrel should tell the other animals back on the mountain about what's happened? Why, my reputation would be

ruined for good⁹. ”

No sooner thought than done.¹⁰ The tiger brought down his claws like lightning and roared. “Stop! Where are you going?” He had no doubt that the squirrel had turned to mincemeat by now¹¹. But when he lifted up his paws, to his great surprise, he found nothing underneath. Instead, he saw the squirrel sitting on a branch overhead, her tail thrashing about briskly¹². Then the squirrel called down to him, “Mr. Tiger, will you please think a little of the favour you still owe me?”

NOTES

1. ruled supreme in a dense mountain forest: 至高无上地统治着茂密的山林。2. found himself trapped in a hunter's net: 其中 himself 和过去分词短语 trapped in a hunter's net 是复合宾语。3. No matter how... 不管怎样……。4. he was about to give up hope from exhaustion, : 当他精疲力竭、而对脱身绝望的时候。be about to do something 正要某事; give up 放弃; from 由于。5. Help! 救命啊! 6. Freed: 脱身以后。是过去分词用作时间状语。7. strong as I am: 我虽然强壮。当 as 引导让步状语从句时, 词序要求倒装。8. What if ...: 倘使……将会怎样? 9. for good: 永久地。10. No sooner