

英汉对照幽默故事选

SELECTIONS

OF

ENGLISH-CHINESE BILINGUAL

HUMOROUS STORIES

(第三集)



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(3)

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张宇澜 季新华 刘晓融 译

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前 言

《英汉对照幽默故事选》第一集、第二集出版以来,受到广大读者的欢迎,现在把最后的第三集译出奉献给广大读者。这三集幽默故事选全部取材于L·A·希尔著、由牛津大学出版社出版的《The Stories For Reproduction》一书。因原书故事幽默、精彩,且图文并茂,通俗易懂,故多年来在很多国家反复重印。对我国广大青少年英语爱好者来说,本书是一本难得的英语通俗读物。

三集幽默故事独立成册,风格相似,循序渐进,词汇容量逐步增加。本册每篇小故事约150~300个英文单词,全书共含约2000余个英语常用词。每篇故事后附有提问和练习,供读者按本篇故事内容解答。书后附有答案和单词表,可供读者查阅。

读者每阅读一篇后,应尽量做到能够背诵,然后逐一回答故事中的问题,最好能独立将每篇小故事翻译出来。必要时可参阅附录中的单词注解、问题答案或译文,以校正自己的差错。

读者如能持之以恒,循序渐进,背诵全书,熟记全部单词,则不仅能从故事中获得乐趣,而且在英语对话、表达、描述、听和写等方面,也一定会有长足的进步。

本书可用作初、高中学生学习英语的课外读物和听力、口语教材。

编 者

1992年2月

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Some villagers were going to celebrate an important wine festival in a few days' time, so they borrowed a huge barrel from the nearest town, put it in the village square, and determined that each of them should empty a bottle of the best wine he had into it, so that there should be plenty at the feast.

One of the villagers thought he would be very clever. 'If I pour a bottle of water in, instead of wine, no one will notice it,' he said to himself, 'because there will be so much excellent wine in the barrel that the water will be lost in it.'

The night of the feast arrived. Everybody gathered in the village square with their jugs and their glasses for the

wine. The tap on the barrel was opened—but what came out was pure water. Everyone in the village had had the same idea.

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why did the villagers borrow the barrel?
2. How did they plan to fill it?
3. What did the villager who put the water in expect the others to do?
4. What did they in fact do?

B. Which words in the story mean:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. collected | 4. very big |
| 2. decided | 5. very good |
| 3. thought | |

有一些村民打算在几天以后庆祝隆重的酒节,于是他们从最邻近的镇上借来了一个巨大的酒桶,将它放置在村子里的广场上,并决定每个村民应当把自己一瓶最好的酒倒到桶里,这样在盛会之时就不愁缺酒喝了。

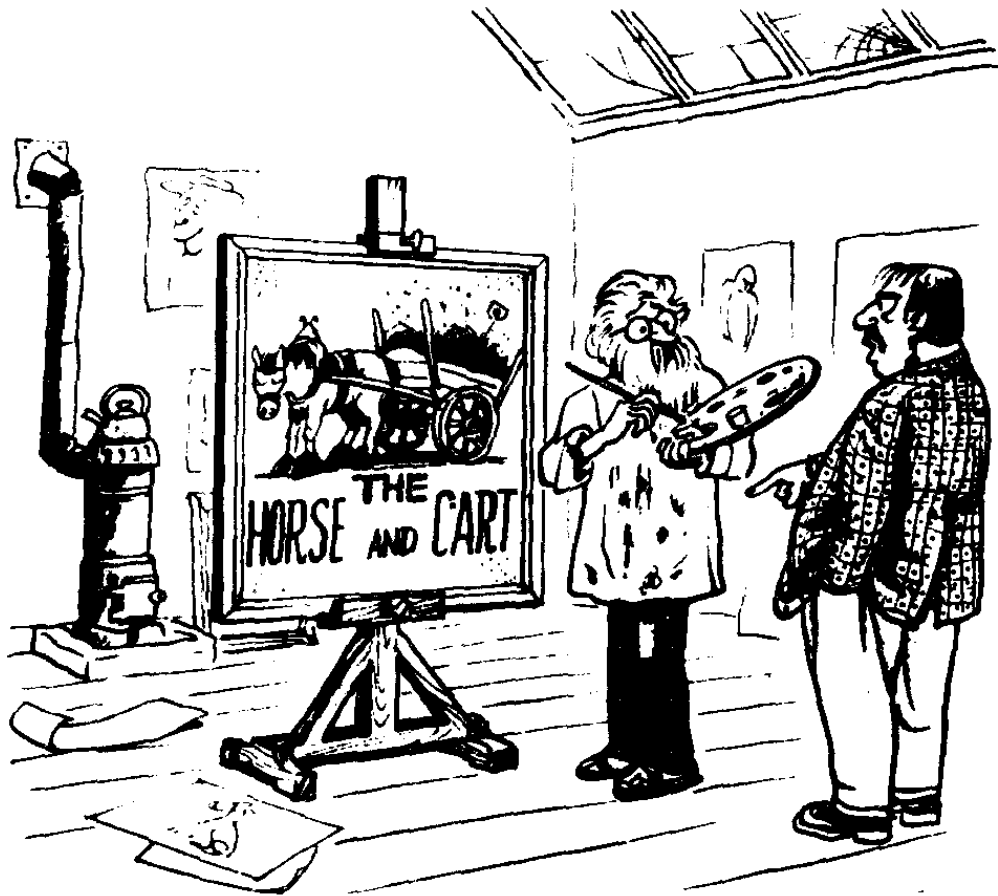
有一个村民自以为很聪明。“假如我不倒酒,把一瓶水倒到桶里去,谁都不会发觉的,”他自言自语地说:“因为桶里有这么多好酒,一瓶水倒进去是显不出来的。”

盛会的夜晚来临了,大家都拿着盛酒的杯子和罐子聚集在村里的广场上。酒桶的龙头打开了,但流出来的完全是水。原来村里的每个人都打的是同样的主意。

2

Can you think of a sentence in which the word ‘and’ appears five times, without any words in between? There is one at the end of this story.

There was once an inn which was called ‘The Horse and



Cart'. It had a sign outside it which had a picture of a horse and cart on it, but the sign was getting very old, so the owner of the inn decided to have a new one made. He went to a painter and asked him to paint one, and to write 'The Horse and Cart' on it in large letters.

A few days later, he went to see how the painter was getting on. He liked the picture of the horse and cart very much, but he did not like the writing at all. He said to the painter, 'No, no! There's too much space between HORSE and AND and AND and CART!'

A. Answer these questions.

1. What is strange about the last sentence in this story?
2. Why did the inn sign have a picture of a horse and cart on it?
3. Why did the owner of the inn want a new sign?

4. What didn't he like about the writing on the new sign?

B. Here is another problem for you; think of a sentence in which *that* appears four times without any other words in between. You will find one at the bottom of this page. *

And here is another puzzle with words: What words can you find which are spelt the same way forwards and backwards, like *did*, *deed* and *madam*? (Such words are called 'palindromes' in English.)

C. Write this story. Choose the right words from each bracket.

A: Oh, look! What's that man doing?

B: I think he (*must paint/must be painting/must have painted*) something.

A: Yes, that's right. He's painting the sign outside that inn. I wonder why.

B: Well, they (*must paint/must be painting/must have painted*) them every few years, don't you think?

A: Yes, I suppose so. The one on the other side looks nice and bright. They (*must paint/must be painting/must have painted*) it quite recently.

B: Yes, it (*must be/must be being/must have been*) painted by the innkeeper. It's terrible.

A: Yes, and look at the windows! They (*must be painted/must be being painted/must have been painted*) only once every hundred years!

B: But the door of the outside lavatory is half green and half grey, and there's a pot of green paint beside it. It (*must be painted/must be being painted/must have been painted*) now.

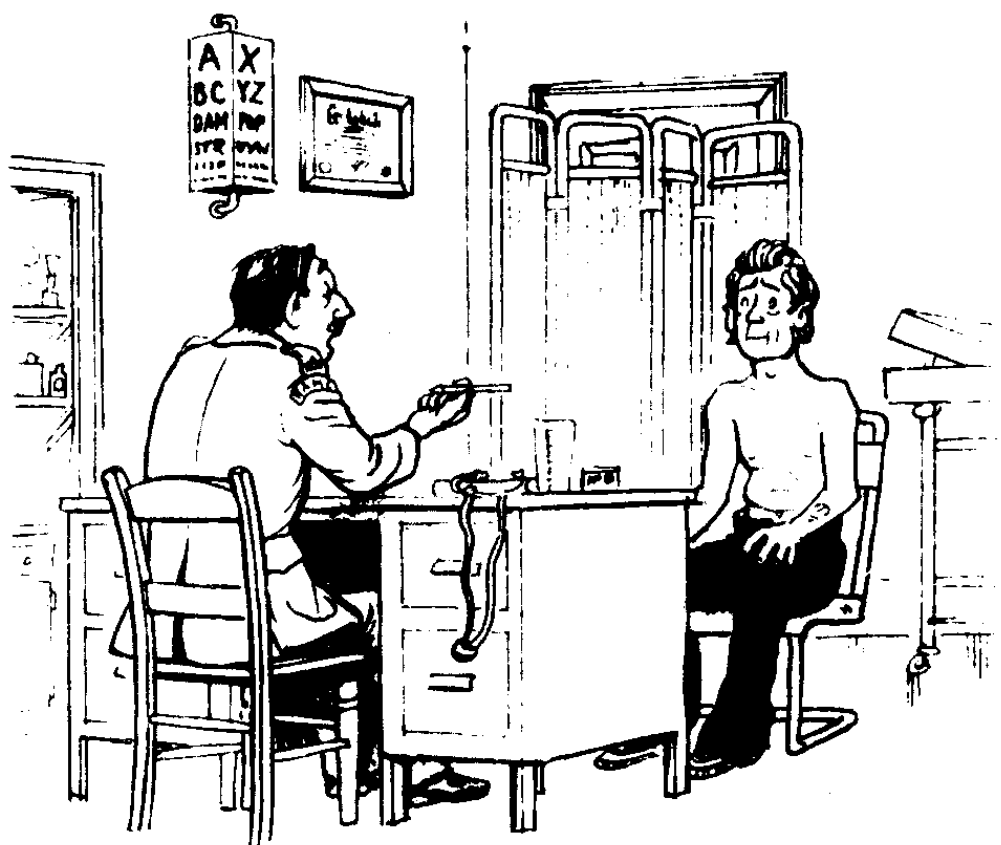
* 'That "that" that that teacher said was wrong is really correct: one can say "the man that I saw", as well as "the man whom I saw".'

你能想出一个不带其他词语连用五个“和”字的句子吗？我们这个故事的末尾就有这样的一个句子。

从前有一个名叫“马和大车”的小旅店，它的门外有一个画着马和大车的招牌，不过这个招牌已越来越旧了，所以旅店老板决定重新做一个。他找到一位画师绘制招牌，并让他用大写字母写上“马和大车”。

几天过去了，老板去看画师画得怎么样了。他很满意画的马和大车，却一点也不喜欢写上的字。他对画师说道：“不，不行！在‘马’和‘和’和‘和’和‘大车’之间留的空太大了！”

3



A young man was called up for army service and had to go to be medically examined. The doctor was sitting at a desk when he went in. He said to the man, 'Take your coat and shirt off, loosen your belt and sit on that chair.'

The young man did so. The doctor looked at him for a moment without getting up from his chair and then said,

‘All right. Put your clothes on again.’

‘But you haven’t examined me at all!’ the young man said in a troubled voice.

‘It isn’t necessary,’ the doctor said gently. ‘When I told you to take your coat and shirt off, you heard me all right, so you aren’t deaf. You saw the chair I pointed to, so your eyesight’s good enough for the army. You managed to take your clothes off and to sit on the chair, so your body must be healthy, and you understood what I told you to do and did it without a mistake, so you must possess enough intelligence for the army.’

A. Answer these questions.

1. What was the young man being medically examined for?
2. What worried him?
3. How did the doctor know that the young man was not deaf?
4. How did he know that he could see all right?
5. How did he know that his body was all right too?
6. How did he know that he was intelligent enough for the army?

B. Opposites. What words in the story mean the opposite of :

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. calm | 4. sick |
| 2. fiercely | 5. tighten |
| 3. lack | |

一个小伙子应征服兵役,他必须经过体格检查。当他进屋时医生正坐在桌边。医生对他说:“脱下你的外套和衬衣,松开腰带,坐在椅子上。”

小伙子这么做了。医生坐在椅子上没有站起来,瞧了小伙子一会儿,然后说:“行了,穿上衣服吧。”

“可是你根本没有检查呀!”小伙子着急地说。

“不必了，”医生从容地说：“当我让你脱去外套和衬衣时，你听得很清楚，所以你不是聋子。你看见了我给你指定的椅子，所以你的视力当兵是够好的了。你能脱下衣服并坐在椅子上，所以你的肢体一定是健全的，而且，你明白我让你做什么并正确地做了，所以当兵应有的才智你完全具备了。”

4



A man had to go to court, and he asked his lawyer which judge would be hearing his case. His lawyer told him and then said, ‘Do you know him?’

The man answered, ‘No, but I wanted to know his name so that I could send him a dozen bottles of good wine.’

The lawyer was terribly shocked. ‘You can’t do that,’ he said. ‘You would be breaking the law very seriously, and you would be sure to lose the case.’

Some weeks later the case was heard, and the man won it. As he was leaving the court, he said to his lawyer, ‘My present to the judge was quite successful, wasn’t it?’

The lawyer was even more shocked than before, and said, 'What? Did you really give him that wine after what I told you?'

'Yes, certainly,' answered the man. 'But I put my opponent's name on the card along with the wine.'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why did the man ask his lawyer the name of the judge who would hear his case?
2. Why was the lawyer shocked?
3. What shocked the lawyer even more after the case had been heard?
4. What had the man done to win his case?

B. Which of the answers to these questions are right? Write the questions and the correct answers down.

1. What does 'hearing his case' mean?
 - a. Listening to him before he goes into court.
 - b. In charge while his business is being dealt with by the court.
 - c. Learning about his complaint.
2. What does 'breaking the law' mean?
 - a. Doing something that is not allowed.
 - b. Making a new law.
 - c. Going into a court.
3. What does 'even' mean in 'even more shocked'? It means the same as:
 - a. 'even' in 'You have 10 points, and so have I, so we are even now.'
 - b. 'even' in 'The lawyer was shocked even when there was no need to be.'
 - c. 'even' in 'John can jump even higher than Fred can.'

有一个人遇到了官司，他就向自己的律师打听，哪位法官将听审他的案子。律师告诉他以后又说：“你认识这位法官吗？”

这个人回答说：“不认识，但我想打听他的姓名，好送给他一打好酒。”

律师大吃一惊。“你不能这么干，”律师说：“你这是严重违法的，而且你肯定会输掉这场官司。”

几个星期以后，案子审理了，这个人的官司打赢了。当他刚要离开法庭时，他对他的律师说：“我送给法官的礼物真管用，不是吗？”

这次律师更加吃惊了，而且说：“什么？你真的在我告诉你利害后还是送酒给法官了？”

“对，的确如此，”这个人回答说：“但是我在送酒时附上的卡片上写的是我的对手的姓名。”

5

A man was telling one of his friends the secret of his contented married life. ‘My wife makes all the small decisions,’ he explained, ‘and I make all the big ones, so we never interfere in each other’s business and never get annoyed with each other. We have no complaints and no arguments.’

‘That sounds reasonable,’ answered his friend sympathetically. ‘And what sort of decisions does your wife make?’

‘Well,’ answered the man, ‘she decides what jobs I apply for, what sort of house we live in, what furniture we have, where we go for our holidays, and things like that.’



His friend was surprised. 'Oh?' he said. 'And what do you consider important decisions then?'

'Well,' answered the man, 'I decide who should be Prime Minister, whether we should increase our help to poor countries, what we should do about the atom bomb, and things like that.'

A. Answer these questions.

1. What was the secret of the man's happy marriage?
2. What sort of decisions did the wife make?
3. What sort of decisions did the husband make?
4. Which of the two was able to carry out his or her decisions?

B. Write this story. Put one word in each empty space. You will find all the correct words in the story above.

A husband was full of ... about his wife. 'I ... that I give her a ... amount of money, and I never ... with how she spends it,' he said, 'but she's always asking for more. She's never ... with what I

give her. I had an ... in my wages a couple of weeks ago, so she at once wanted more. As soon as I get back from work she starts demanding more money, and that makes me very We have terrible ... sometimes. I have a bad ... , really. '

The man he was talking to answered ... , 'And what does she do with all the extra money?'

'I don't know,' answered the husband. 'I've never given her any. '

有一个男人告诉他的一个朋友他家庭生活美满的秘密。“我的妻子决定所有的各种小事,”他解释说:“而由我决定一切大事,所以我们彼此从不干预对方的事,也从来不生对方的气。我们既不抱怨也没有争执。”

“这个办法听起来很不错,”他的朋友赞同地说:“那么哪类事情由你妻子决定呢?”

“噢,”这个男人回答说:“由她决定我申请什么工作,我们住什么样的房子,我们配备什么样的家具,我们到何处度假,诸如此类”。

他的朋友感到奇怪。“啊?”他说:“那么你认为什么是重要的决定呢?”

“哦,”这个男人回答说:“我决定谁应该当总理,我们是否应该增加对贫困国家的援助,我们应该怎样对待原子弹,如此等等。”

6

John was the only son of a wealthy American businessman. Usually he was taken to school by the chauffeur in his father's beautiful car, before the chauffeur took John's father to his office. One evening his father told him that he



had to go to the airport early the next day, so he would need the car at the time that John had to go to school. He said that John's mother, who possessed another car, would still be in bed at the time he had to leave the house.

'Well, how will I get to school if you need your car and Mummy is still in bed?' John asked. His father thought this was a good opportunity to teach him a lesson about how hard life was for the less fortunate people of the world, so he answered, 'You'll go in the same way as every other child in the world goes—in a taxi.'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why was John able to go to school in a beautiful car driven by a chauffeur?