

新5元英语精粹

*Selections from  
Humorous English Stories*

# 英语幽默故事精选



张帆 编著  
延边人民出版社

*Selections from*

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*Humoro*

# 英语幽默故事精选

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# 丛书小序

在尘世中久了,总是不自觉平添了几许莫名的空虚与烦忧,心灵深处又总是渴求一种安宁,一种远离都市喧嚣的静谧。

你是否还记得,那茵茵的绿草地上,紫藤编织的花园;静静的夏日午后,洒满阳光的窗棂?还有,烟雨蒙蒙的黄昏,种满芭蕉的庭院;月光如水,玉露初降时,淡淡的野百合的香? …

当此之时,手执一本白纸黑字可看可不看的闲书,卧榻上,树荫里,静静地读上一叶两叶,三叶五叶,聆听前人的心灵独语,体味内心的情感升华,是一种心境,一种享受,一种超脱。没有了凡尘的嘈杂与喧嚣,也没有俗世的繁荣与奢华,有的只是心灵的净化,情感的升华。如诗一般浪漫,似梦一样飘渺!

曾几何时,这份心境已飘然逝去? 我不知道为什么,但我很怀念。

荷锄归来(笔耕也算得上吧),夜凉如水,洗去因生活而厚厚积累的凡尘,豁然发现,当一切繁华悄悄褪去,那份静谧,以及融化在这静谧之中的心灵的私语,仍是内心深处永远不变的情愫。

这套小书曾在人生的觥筹交错、燕舞声声中给我以安宁,也希望她能够使您在偶得空隙之时,避开现实的烦扰,重拾这份美好的心境。

编 者

2003年8月于山大外院

# 前言



幽默是生活中不可缺少的调味品。因为有它,枯燥单调的日子也可以变得多姿多彩;因为有它,烦闷沉郁的心情也可变成粲然一笑。人类智慧的火花在这里不时闪现,人生深奥的哲理在轻松中任您品味。翻开这本幽默故事,您便会乐在其中。

本书由编者从各种英美畅销杂志及因特网上汇集的幽默小品精选而成,共分九个部分,分别从不同侧面表现了生活和工作中的诙谐,读后让人忍俊不禁。阅读对象为不同年龄、不同程度的所有英语爱好者。相信这本小书在博得您轻松一笑的同时,还会使您对其中折射出的异国文化与风土人情有所了解。

编者



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# PART 1

## Women And Men / 男人和女人





# 1

"If you refuse to marry me," he swore, "I shall die."

She refused him.

Sixty years later, he died.

# 2

"How did you stop your husband staying late at the club?"

"When he came in late I called out, 'Is that you, Jack?' and my husband's name is Robert."

# 3

A young man approached the counter at which Christmas cards were being sold.

"Have you anything sentimental?" he asked.

"Here's a lovely one," replied the salesgirl. "to the Only Girl I Ever Loved."

"That's fine. I'll take four...no...six of those please."

## Notes

1. counter: 柜台

2. sentimental: 感情的; 多愁善感的

# 4

Two men were talking at the office rest room. One was telling the other about a fight he'd had with his wife. "In the end," he said, "I had her begging on her knees."

"What did she say?" asked the coworker.

"She told me to come out from under the bed."

# 5

A highway patrol officer stopped a speeding motor-

ist. "Don't you know what the blinking lights and siren mean?" he demanded.

"Yes, sir," replied the driver.

"Then why didn't you pull over immediately?"

"I would have, officer," the man said. "But last month my wife ran off with a policeman, and I was afraid you were bringing her back."

#### Notes

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. speeding: 超速行驶 | 2. blinking light: 闪光警灯 |
| 3. siren: 汽笛, 警报器 | 4. pull over: 开到路边      |

## 6

An 85-year-old widow went on a blind date with a 90-year-old man. When she returned to her daughter's house later that night, she seemed upset. "What happened, Mother?" the daughter asked.

"I had to slap his face three times!"

"You mean he got fresh?"

"No," she answered. "I thought he was dead!"

#### Notes

get fresh: 〈美俚〉无礼, 放肆(尤指对异性)

## 7

Kavin: "My wife and I argue a lot. She's very touchy—the least little thing sets her off."

Christopher: "You're lucky. Mine is a self-starter."

#### Notes

1. touchy: 易起火的, 此处意为暴躁的。
2. self-starter: 电动式启动装置, 喻为无缘无故便发脾气的人。

## 8

During a baseball game, a woman kept shouting threats at the umpire. No matter what happened on the field, she continually yelled, "Kill the umpire!" This went on for an hour. "Lady," another fan called out, "the umpire hasn't done anything wrong."

"He's my husband," she replied. "Last night he came home with lipstick on his collar. Kill the umpire!"

Notes

1. umpire: 裁判员    2. lipstick: <美>口红, 唇膏

## 9

"It was horrible," the man was telling his psychiatrist. "While I was in Japan on business, I wired my wife that I'd be back a day early. I rushed home from the airport and found her alone with my best friend. How could she do this to me?"

"Well," answered the shrink, "maybe she didn't get your telegram!"

Notes

1. psychiatrist: 精神病医师    2. shrink: <美俚>精神病学家

## 10

A couple had been married for 50 years. "Things have really changed," she said. "You used to sit very close to me."

"Well, I can remedy that," he said, moving next to her on the couch.

"How's that?" he asked as he gave her a hug.

"Do you remember you used to nudge my neck and nibble on my ear lobes?" He jumped to his feet and left

the room. "Where are you going?"

"I'll be right back," he said, "I've got to get my teeth!"

#### Notes

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. remedy: 补救        | 2. hug: 拥抱        |
| 3. nudge: 用肘轻推       | 4. nibble: 一点一点地咬 |
| 5. lobe: 圆形突出部(尤指耳垂) |                   |

## 11

The young wife found her husband at their baby's crib, a mixture of emotions spreading over his face. She slipped her arms around him. "A penny for your thoughts," she said, her eyes glistening.

"For the life of me," he replied. "I can't see how anybody can make a crib like this for \$ 84.97."

#### Notes

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. crib: 婴儿床 | 2. glisten: 闪光 |
|--------------|----------------|

## 12

At 2 A.M., Mrs. Smith was convinced that she had heard a prowler in the living room. "Tiptoe downstairs," she told her husband. "Don't turn on the lights. Sneak up on him before he knows what's happening."

Dutifully Mr. Smith put on his robe. Just as he reached the bedroom door, his wife added, "And when you come back, bring me a glass of milk."

#### Notes

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. prowler: 小偷 | 2. tiptoe: 踮着脚走 |
| 3. sneak: 偷偷地做 |                 |

## 13

My friend's father was proud of his family of six

children. He frequently referred to his wife as "Mother of Six", much to her annoyance. Finally, she cured him of his habit. At the end of a party, he called out loud enough for everyone to hear, "Ready to go, Mother of Six?"

"Any time you are," she replied, "Father of Four."

#### Notes

1. refer to sb. as... 以...的名称提到...

2. annoyance: 烦恼

3. cure: 治愈

## 14

My husband and I were invited to an all-you-can-get buffet at a new restaurant. After we got our meals, the owner came over and asked, "How's everything?"

"Fine," replied my husband. "I enjoy buffets—I eat until my ankles hurt." "Your ankles hurt?" queried the owner.

"Yes," said my husband. "My wife kicks me under the table when I've had enough."

#### Notes

1. buffet: 小卖部

2. ankle: 脚踝

## 15

As a young police officer, I pulled a car over for going through a red light. There was an elderly couple in the car, and as I approached I could hear the man being scolded for the way he drove. The vehicle and driver appeared to be legal, so I told the woman that if she would agree to watch her husband's driving habits in the future, I would not write a ticket.

Returning to my patrol car, I was surprised to find the man had followed me. "Please give me a ticket!" he begged. "What you're doing instead is cruel and unusual

punishment.”

#### Notes

1. scold: 责骂, 斥责
2. ticket: <口>(给违反交通规则者等的)传票
3. patrol car: 巡逻车
4. punishment: 惩罚

## 16

Since my parents are as much in love today as when they were first married 40 years ago, it was no surprise to watch them glide romantically across the dance floor at my brother's wedding. I got misty-eyed as Dad steered Mom energetically around the ball-room, and it was particularly touching when he waved away anyone who attempted to cut in.

“Mom,” I said during the band's first break, “it's great to see that Dad still worships the ground you walk on. He danced every dance with you!”

“Oh, no, dear,” she stated matter-of-factly. “He just missed his fitness class today and was trying to sustain his target heart rate for 30 minutes.”

#### Notes

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. glide: 滑行     | 2. steer: 引导       |
| 3. touching: 动人的 | 4. sustain: 维持, 持续 |
| 5. target: 目标    |                    |

## 17

Walking down the street one day, I was approached by a panhandler who held out an empty cup and said, “Hi, beautiful. How about \$ 5?”

“I'm not beautiful and I don't have \$ 5,” I replied.

“Well,” he said, “you're not bad looking. How about



\$ 2.50?"

Notes

panhandler: <美口> (街头行乞的) 乞丐

## 18

I came home from work one day to find my wife, Jolynn, cradling our six-month-old daughter and repeating, "Da-da, Da-da." How sweet, I thought to myself, for her to choose Daddy as our baby's first word.

Several weeks later, Jolynn and I were awakened by a small voice crying, "Da-da." Turning over to go back to sleep, my wife said, "She's calling you, dear."

Notes

cradle: 将...放在摇篮内

## 19

My husband retired, and for the first time in over 40 years I had to think about preparing a midday meal. Tired of it after several months, I said, "I married you for better or worse, but not for lunch."

"Fair enough. From now on I'll make my own," he replied.

A few weeks later he had to go downtown on business and invited me to join him afterward. "We could have lunch at that Japanese restaurant we both like," he suggested. I happily agreed.

At the restaurant the next day we were seated, and the waiter came to take our order. My husband looked up, a twinkle in his eyes. "Separate checks, please." He said. 闪烁

Notes

1. twinkle: 闪烁, 发光

2. check: 饭馆的账单

## 20

The man told his doctor that he wasn't able to do all the things around the house that he used to do. When the examination was complete, he said, "Now, Doc, I can take it. Tell me in plain English what is wrong with me."

"Well, in plain English," the doctor replied, "you're just lazy."

"Okay," said the man. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife."

"It's 'husband'," said the doctor.

### Notes

1. in plain English: 用日常英语的话说
2. medical term: 医学术语

## 21

A friend of mine went into work one day, very excited about her new birthday present: earrings that were big, round, working clocks! She proudly showed them to everyone. At lunchtime, she was alone in the office when a man entered and asked what time it was. A big grin spread across her face. She stepped close to the man, looked him in the eye and shook her head so he would notice her new timepieces. The man's eyes grew large, he stammered a thank-you and quickly left. My friend then saw her new earrings lying in the middle of her desk. She had taken them off when talking on the phone.

### Notes

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. earring: 耳环 | 2. timepiece: 时钟 |
| 3. grin: 露齿而笑  | 4. stammer: 口吃   |

## 22

In his autobiography, Franco Zeffirelli writes about the time he invited Maria Callas and Anna Magnani to dine at his home. He was apprehensive about the two women meeting, but his greatest concern was the dinner table. Who should sit on his right?

“I waited until Anna went to powder her nose. Then I said to Maria, ‘Listen, darling, Magnani is so much older than you, I’ll have to put her on my right, if you don’t mind.’”

“‘You must,’ she said firmly.”

### Notes

1. autobiography: 自传      2. apprehensive: 有理解力的

## 23

A man was admiring the tropical fish in the pet shop where I used to work. When I offered my assistance, he mentioned that his new wife was a fish fancier. After I showed him around, he shouted, “There she is! That’s the one I’ll take.” As I scooped out a large, sluggish goldfish with a gray splotch at the top of its head, the man exclaimed, “My bride will love this! She’s always wanted to know what my first wife looked like!”

### Notes

1. tropical: 热带的      2. scoop: 掘, 挖  
3. sluggish: 行动迟缓的      4. splotch: 斑点

## 24

On the night of the masked ball, a woman developed a migraine and told her husband to go alone. Later she felt better, so she got into her costume, which her