

ENGLISH HUMOUR 500



英语幽默500

伍刚中 编

湖南大学

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廖世翘 曹自立 审校

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序 言

英语是世界上最优美的语言之一，它的词语极其丰富多彩，表达能力极强。英语幽默是英语宝库中的一颗灿烂的明珠，闪烁着英语语言艺术的光芒。我读完“英语幽默500”的书稿后，觉得该书文情并茂，妙趣横生，引人入胜。它有以下几个特点：

一、雅俗共赏，老少咸宜

本书的读者对象主要是初级英语阶段的学习者，特别是高中、中专和大学低年级学生。对英语功底较深或年事稍高的同志来说，利用茶余饭后的时间，每日读上几则，当然也是一件赏心悦目的趣事。

二、妙语连珠，趣味性强

本书所收幽默不仅具有浓郁的生活气息，寓意深刻，而且诙谐滑稽，耐人寻味。读读它，使人忍俊不禁，笑口常开。

三、语言洗炼，用语地道

英语幽默是英、美人民在现实生活中创造出来的，又为人民所喜闻乐道的一种语言艺术形式。本书的语言简洁、优美、诙谐、地道，是读者学习英语口语的极好的参考材料。

四、内容丰富，知识面广

本书所收幽默，除了日常生活范围的笑料外，还涉及到

自然科学、文学、艺术、历史、体育诸方面。它可以开扩读者的眼界，了解异国的风情，扩大读者的知识面。

总之，这本小册子不仅有助于提高读者的英语水平，而且能起到使读者“笑一笑，十年少”的作用，有益于身心健康。

廖世翘

1988年9月16日

编者的话

为了帮助高中、中专和大学低年级同学欣赏英语语言宝库中英语幽默这颗五光十色的明珠，扩大英语知识面，增强英语学习的兴趣，提高英语阅读能力和口语表达能力，编者从英、美和苏联出版的有关英文书籍和期刊中，挑选出英语幽默五百余则，编成这本书。

本书所选幽默，按其内容分成十二部分。每一部分篇数不一。为了便于读者阅读和理解，对每篇幽默的难词或关键词句，作了简要注释和说明。读者在读完每篇幽默正文之后再看看注释，可以验证自己的理解能力。

本书所收幽默，就其型式而言，大致可分为幽默对话和幽默小故事两类。考虑到本书主要阅读对象是初级英语阶段的学习者，所以对幽默对话原文中出现的一些较为偏僻的英语单词，用常用词作了替代；对幽默小故事的原文，进行了压缩删减，力求简明扼要，但风趣仍存。

本书承蒙廖世翘教授和曾自立编审悉心审阅，谨此致谢。

编者学识谫陋，不当或错误之处，敬请读者指正。

伍刚中

1988年8月20日

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Part 1 School Humour

1

Teacher: "Why are you often late for school?"

Student: "Because the sign said, 'School Zone, Go Slow!'"

sign /sain/ n. 指示牌 (交通标志牌)

zone /zoun/ n. 地区

School Zone, Go Slow! 学校区域, 慢行!

2

Phys. teacher: "Which travels faster, heat or cold?"

Student: "Heat. You can catch cold. "

You can catch cold. /'kætʃ kəʊld/

1. 你会得感冒。(本意)
2. "冷" 你可以捕捉得到。(另意)

Math. teacher: "Now we find that X is equal to zero. "

Student: "Gee! All that work is for nothing! "

math /mæθ/ n. 数学

equal /'i:kwəl/ a. 相等的 vt. 等于

gee /dʒi:/ int. 哎呀(表示惊奇、兴奋等)

4

Chem. teacher: "Can you tell me anything about the great chemists of the 19th century? "

Student: "They are all dead, sir. "

chemist /'kemist/ n. 化学家

century /'sentʃuri/ n. 世纪, 百年

5

Music teacher: "Who is the famous tenor in our city? And who is the famous bass? "

Student: "When my father denounces me, he is a famous tenor. When he speaks to my mother, he is a bass."

tenor /'tenə/ n. 男高音

bass /beis/ n. 男低音

denounce /di'nauns/ vt. 斥责, 痛骂

6

"Who was the first President of the United States?" a history teacher asked one of her students.

The student thought for a long time, but did not say anything. Then the teacher got angry and shouted, "George Washington!"

The student began to walk towards his seat.

"Come back!" the teacher said, "I didn't tell you to go."

"Oh, I'm sorry," said the student, "I thought you called the next student."

president /'prezident/ n. 总统

George Washington /dʒɔ:ʒ 'wɒʃɪŋtən/ n.

乔治·华盛顿(1732—1799), 于1789—1797年任
美国第一任总统

7

Medical prof.: "What would you do in the case of a person eating poisonous mushrooms?"

Stud.: "Recommend a change of diet."

poisonous /'pɔɪznəs/ a. 有毒的

mushroom /'mʌʃrʊm/ n. 蘑菇

recommend /,rekə'mend/ vt. 建议, 推荐

diet /'daɪət/ n. 食物, 饮食

8

Literature prof.: "Tell me one or two things about John Milton."

Stud.: "Well, he got married and he wrote "Paradise Lost". Then his wife died and he wrote "Paradise Regained".

John Milton /dʒɒn 'mɪltən/ n. 约翰·密尔顿
(1608—1674), 著名英国诗人

get married /get 'mærid/ 结婚

"Paradise Lost" /'pærədaɪz lɒst/

“失乐园” (约翰·密尔顿所写的一部叙事诗)

"Paradise Regained" /'pærədaɪz ri'geɪnd/

“复乐园” (约翰·密尔顿所写的另一部叙事诗)

Phys. teacher: "What is usually used as a conductor of electricity?"

Student: "Why-er..."

Phys. teacher: "Correct, wire. And now tell me the unit of electrical power."

Student: "The what?"

Phys. teacher: "Yes. The watt."

conductor /kən'dakte/ n. (电) 导体, 导线

wire /'waɪə/ n. 电线, 电缆; 金属线

electricity /ɪlek'trɪsɪti/ n. 电流, 电

watt /wɒt/ n. (电) 瓦, 瓦特

Grammar teacher: "A noun is the name of a person or a thing. Now, who can give me a noun?"

First pupil: "A cow."

Teacher: "Very good. Another noun?"

Second pupil: "Another cow."

noun /naʊn/ n. 名词

cow /kau/ n. 母牛, 奶牛

11

Prof.: "Before we begin the examination are there any questions?"

Stud.: "What's the name of this course?"

examination /ig,zæmi'neiʃən/ n. 考试, 检查
course /kɔ:s/ n. 课程

12

First student: "Did the music teacher actually say your voice was heavenly?"

Second student: "Well, she did say it was unearthly."

actually /'æktʃuəli/ ad. 实际上, 确实
heavenly /'hevnli/ a. 天的, 天上的
your voice was heavenly 你的嗓子好上了天
unearthly /ʌn'ə:θli/ a. 非尘世的, 地上没有的
she did say it was unearthly 她真的说了我的嗓音在地上找不到

13

First student: "Which is the longest word in the English language?"

Second student: "I don't know. Would you like to

... tell me what it is? ”

First student: “It’s ‘smiles’ .”

Second student: “That isn’t very long. Only six letters. ”

First student: “But there is a mile between the first and the last letters. ”

smiles /smaɪlz/ (smile 的第三人称单数现在式)

笑, 微笑

letter /ˈleɪtə/ n. 字母

mile /maɪl/ n. 英里

14

Teacher: “Can you tell me what a fish-net is made of? ”

Pupil: “A lot of little holes tied together. ”

fish-net /fɪʃnet/ n. 鱼网

hole /hoʊl/ n. 洞, 孔眼

tie /taɪ/ vi. & vt. 系、扎、拴

15

Once two pupils were talking about the sun and the moon.

“Which of them is more useful? ” asked one of them.

The other answered, "Oh, I know. The moon is. The moon is in the sky at night when it is dark, but the sun is in the sky in the daytime when nobody wants it. "

daytime /'deɪtaɪm/ n. 日间, 白天

16

Voice on telephone, "John is ill and can't attend classes today. He requested me to notify you."

Prof.: "All right. Who is this speaking? "

Voice: "This is my roommate. "

request /rɪ'kwest/ vt. 请求, 要求

notify /'nəʊtɪfaɪ/ vt. 通知

roommate /'rummeɪt/ n. 住在同室的人

17

Prof.: "What are you reading, Tom? "

Stud.: "I don't know. "

Prof.: "You don't know? You were reading aloud, so you must know. "

Stud.: "I was reading aloud, sir, but I was not listening."

18

At a college examination a professor said: "Does the question embarrass you?"

"Not at all, sir," replied the student, "not at all. It is the answer that bothers me."

embarrass /im' bærəs/ vt. 使为难, 使窘迫

bother /'bɒðə/ vt. 烦扰, 费脑筋

19

Friend: "What is your son going to be when he's passed his final exam?"

Father: "An old man."

final /'faɪnəl/ a. 最后的, 最终的

20

Reporter: "What is the professor's research work?"

Prof.'s housekeeper: "It consists principally in hunting for his spectacles."

reporter /ri'pɔ:tə/ n. 记者, 汇报人

research /ri'sə:tʃ/ n. 研究, 探查

housekeeper /'haʊski:pə/ n. 女管家

consist /kən'sist/ vi. 由...组成

principally /'prinsepəli/ ad. 主要地

hunt /hʌnt/ vt. 搜索, 搜寻

spectacles /'spektəklz/ n. (复) 眼镜

21

“Professor, why do you use three pairs of eyeglasses?”

“Yes, one pair for long sight, one pair for short sight, and the third to look for the other two.”

eyeglasses /'aiglə:siz/ n. 眼镜(复)

sight /sait/ n. 视力

long sight 远视

short sight 近视

22

Teacher: “Billy, what’s a synonym?”

Student: “It’s a word you use in place of another one when you can not spell the other one.”

synonym /'sinənim/ n. 同义词

23

Father: “Well, son, what’s your place on the school-list this month?”

Son: “I’m twenty-sixth.”