

凤凰英语编辑部 编

PHOENIX

ENGLISH

第3辑

ENGLISH
FOR
YOU!

凤凰英语
分级阅读 第六级

江苏凤凰科学技术出版社

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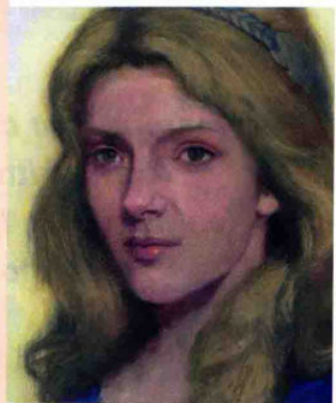
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Contents



1. *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka:
Part One: The First Morning 6
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Teacher and Pupil Jokes 14
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Volume Three 18
5. Awesome Authors:
Jane Austen 21
6. A Spy Organization Called MI6 25
7. Food in the United Kingdom 28
8. Do You Hate Reading? 31
9. Extreme Sports:
Surfing 35

10. Great Cities of the World:	
Berlin	38
11. How Babies Learn	44
12. Dear Abby:	
Honest Fund-raiser	47
13. Greek Mythology:	
Medusa: Part One	50
14. Young Bloggers:	
Alessandra Peters.....	54
15. The Cameron Twins:	
Cheats and Revenge	57
16. School Punishment	61
17. Strange Jobs.....	64
18. Tips to Stop You Worrying.....	67
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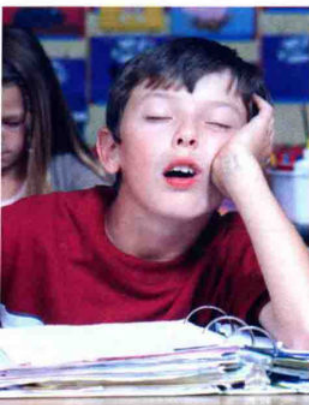
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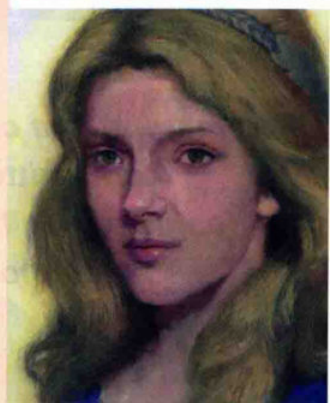
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Surfing 35

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The Metamorphosis

by Franz Kafka

Adapted by Simon Green



*Franz Kafka was a novelist born in Prague, now the capital of the Czech Republic, in 1883. He is widely regarded as one of the most important writers of the 20th century. His most famous story is *The Metamorphosis*, which he wrote in 1912. A metamorphosis is a major change that can make someone or something very different. For example, an ugly caterpillar changes into a beautiful butterfly.*

Imagine you could be an animal for a day. What would you like to be? A cute kitten? A funny duck floating on a pond? How about an eagle, flying high above the ground? The man in Kafka's story has a metamorphosis that is not what you would wish for at all.

Part One: The First Morning

One rainy morning, Gregor Samsa, a travelling salesman, woke up in his small bedroom in his parents' house with a strange feeling. The blanket was slowly falling off him onto the floor, and Gregor was feeling cold. When the young man tried to lift his head, he saw that he had transformed into a huge insect. He had a hard shell for a back, and lots of tiny legs that didn't stop moving. On his head were two long feelers. He looked a lot like a woodlouse.

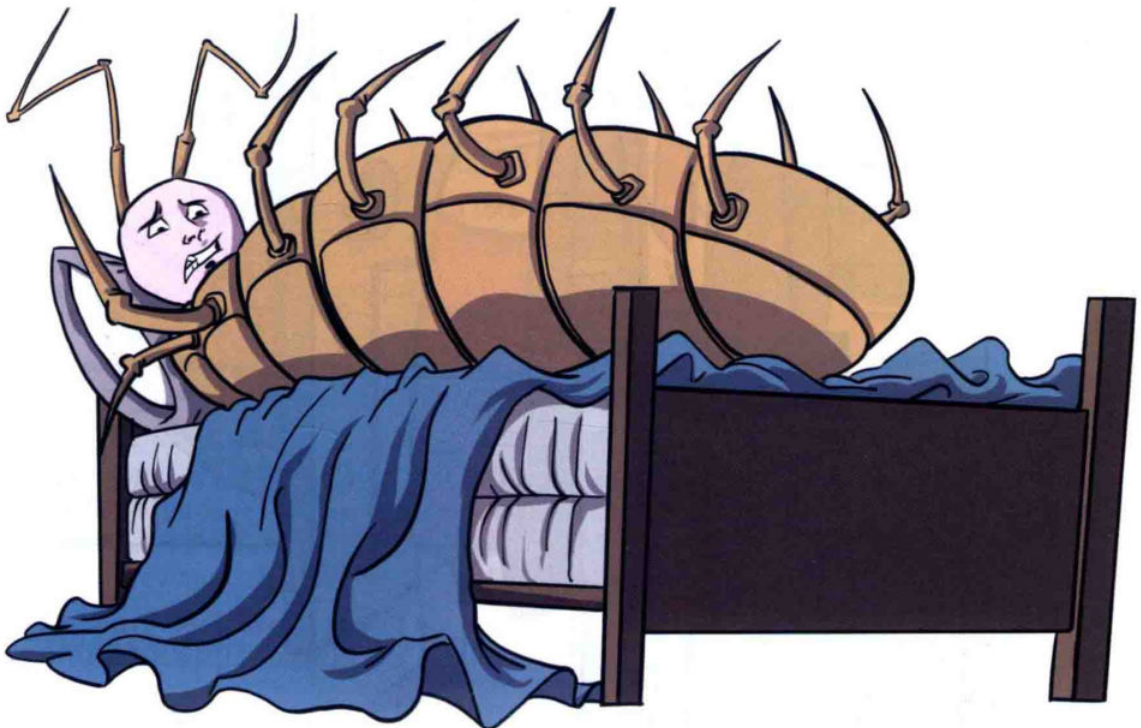
“What has happened to me?” he thought. “Is this a terrible dream? I must be overtired from my job! Too much work can make a man go crazy. No. I’ll stay in bed a little longer and that will help me feel better. I can always get the later train to the office. Oh, I wish I had a different job.”

A few minutes later, Gregor heard a gentle knocking on his bedroom door. “Gregor, it’s time to get up. You’ll be late for work if you don’t get a move on,” he heard his mother say quietly. When he replied “Yes, mother. I’m just getting ready now,” he heard his own voice had been replaced by a series of horrible clicks and squeals. “What’s that terrible noise?” Gregor thought to himself. Luckily, the wooden bedroom door had made his voice sound like a whisper. His mother went back downstairs, happy that her son was getting up.

Gregor remained lying in his bed. He looked down at his large stomach and tiny legs,

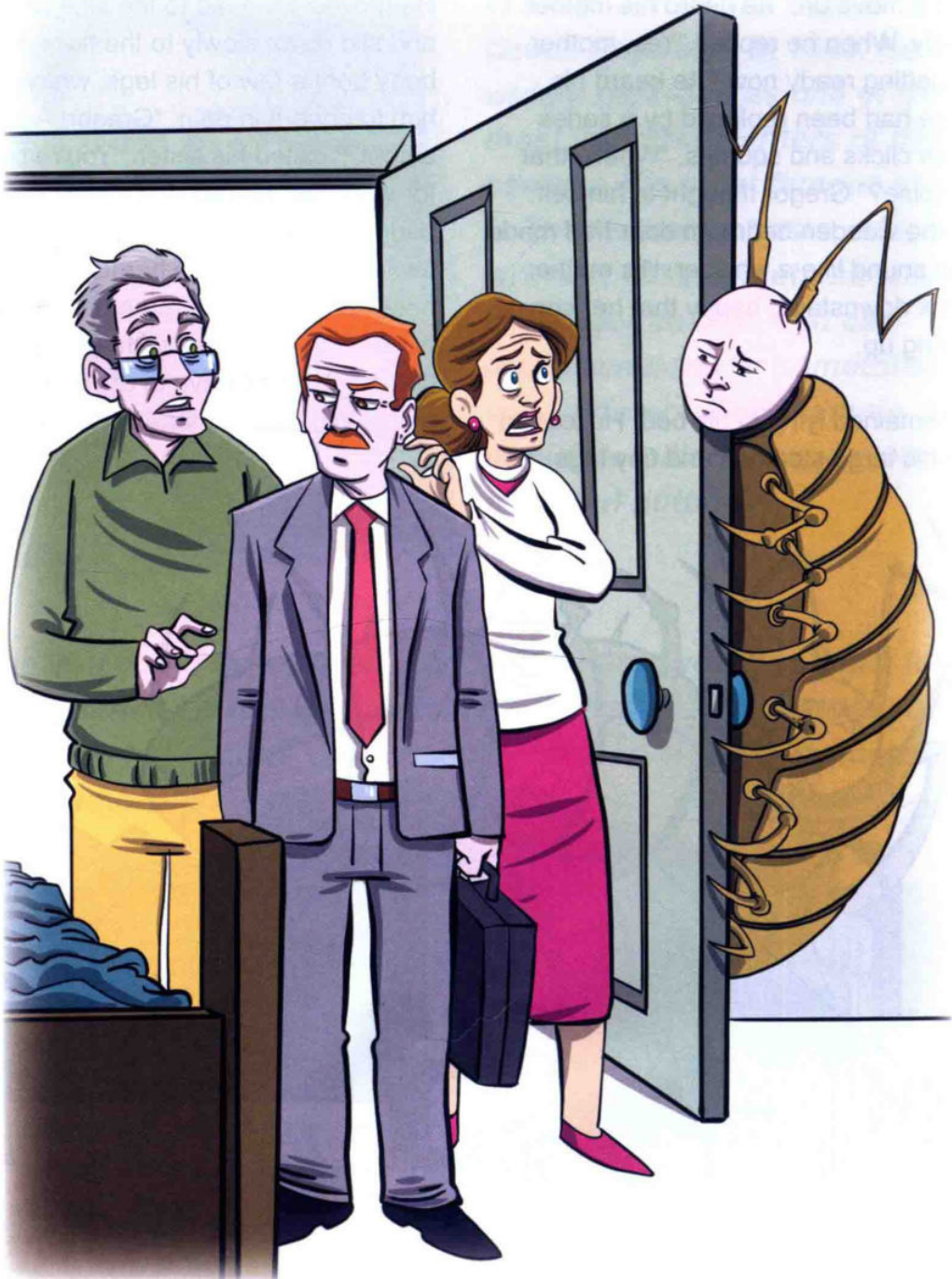
and wondered what had caused this awful transformation. Soon, there was another knock on the locked bedroom door, but this time it was louder. “Gregor! Get up now, you lazy idiot!” came his father’s voice. Then he heard his sister, Greta, say in a worried voice, “Come on, Gregor. Are you feeling ill? Open the door.” Gregor tried to roll out of bed, but he could only rock from side to side on his giant shell, with his legs waving in the air.

He moved his head to the side of the bed and slid down slowly to the floor. His heavy body bent a few of his legs, which caused him to cry out in pain. “Gregor! Are you alright?” called his sister. “You’re really late for work.” As he crawled slowly towards his bedroom door, he heard the doorbell ring. A few seconds later, he heard the voice of his boss say, “Is he ill? Come on, Gregor. You have an appointment with an important client this morning. I’ll have to drive you to their office. What’s the matter with you?”



Gregor tried to stand up on his back legs, but he was just too heavy. He leaned himself up against a chair and then fell towards the door. His legs moved quickly, but uselessly. Now his mouth was able to take hold of the key, and he slowly struggled to turn it. Once the key had unlocked the door with a loud click, the door was pushed wide open from the other side. Gregor was now behind the door, pushed against the wall, so nobody could see him. His boss, mother and father came in and stood by the bed.

"I'm very sorry," Gregor said. "I must have overslept. I'll just get dressed and then we can go to our meeting." But the horrifying noises that came from his mouth caused everyone to turn around quickly. His mother screamed in terror. Her son wasn't standing there. All she saw was a giant, disgusting-looking, brown and grey insect.



WORDS

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1. **novelist** /'nɒvəlɪst/ *n.* 小说家
2. **metamorphosis**
/ˌmetə'mɔːfəʊsɪs/ *n.* 变形
3. **caterpillar** /'kætəpɪlə/ *n.*
毛虫
4. **float** /fləʊt/ *v.* 漂浮
5. **salesman** /'seɪlzmən/ *n.*
销售员
6. **feeler** /'fiːlə/ *n.* 触角
7. **woodlouse** /'wʊdlaʊs/ *n.*
潮虫
8. **overtired** /əʊvə'taɪəd/ *adj.*
劳累过度的
9. **click** /kɪk/ *n.* 咔哒声
10. **squeal** /skwi:l/ *n.* 长而尖的声音
11. **whisper** /'wɪspə/ *n.* 低语声
12. **awful** /'ɔːfʊl/ *adj.* 糟糕的
13. **transformation**
/ˌtrænsfə'meɪʃn/ *n.* 变化
14. **idiot** /'ɪdɪət/ *n.* 笨蛋
15. **rock** /rɒk/ *v.* 摇晃, 摆动
16. **crawl** /krɔ:l/ *v.* 爬行
17. **appointment** /ə'pɔɪntmənt/
n. 约会
18. **client** /'klaɪənt/ *n.* 客户
19. **lean** /li:n/ *v.* 倚靠
20. **struggle** /'strʌɡl/ *v.* 努力
21. **unlock** /ʌn'lɒk/ *v.*
(用钥匙) 开锁
22. **oversleep** /əʊvə'sli:p/ *v.*
睡过头
23. **horrifying** /'hɒrɪfaɪɪŋ/ *adj.*
令人极其震惊的
24. **terror** /'terə/ *n.* 惊恐
25. **giant** /'dʒaɪənt/ *adj.* 巨大的
26. **disgusting-looking**
/dɪs'gʌstɪŋ'lʊkɪŋ/ *adj.*
令人恶心的

NOTES

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1. **The Metamorphosis** 《变形记》，奥地利作家弗兰兹·卡夫卡创作的中篇小说，完成于1912年，讲述了主人公格里高尔·萨姆沙变成甲虫后努力适应新生活的故事。
2. **Franz Kafka** 弗兰兹·卡夫卡 (1883~1924)，奥地利作家。
3. **Prague** 布拉格，捷克共和国的首都，同时也是该国最大的城市。
4. **Czech Republic** 捷克共和国，位于中欧的一个内陆国家。
5. **The man in Kafka's story has a metamorphosis that is not what you would wish for at all.**
卡夫卡故事中的这个人经历了一次你根本不想要的变形。
6. **He had a hard shell for a back, and lots of tiny legs that didn't stop moving.**
他背上有一个硬壳，还有许多细小的腿在不停地动。
7. **I must be overtired from my job!**
我一定是工作太累了。
8. **Oh, I wish I had a different job.**
哦，我希望换个工作。该句使用了虚拟语气，宾语从句中的谓语动词用了过去式，表示对现在情况的虚拟。
9. **Gregor tried to roll out of bed, but he could only rock from side to side on his giant shell, with his legs waving in the air.**
格里高尔试着翻身起床，但是他只能躺着从一边挪到另一边，许多腿在半空中舞动。with his legs waving ... 是介词结构作伴随状语。
10. **His heavy body bent a few of his legs, which caused him to cry out in pain.**
他沉重的身体把几条腿都压弯了，让他疼得叫了出来。

Table Manners: Part Two

By Debbie Aldred

Hi, everyone! Last time, I talked about basic manners. I forgot to say that anything that is not about food should not be on the table. So phones, keys, sunglasses and bags should be put elsewhere. I'm glad I remembered to mention that!



Last time, we imagined we were sitting at a table with other people. When you sit down you should put your napkin on your lap. When you start eating, you may have lots of knives and forks. Don't worry. Just use the ones that are on the outside first. Or watch and wait for someone else to start before you!



An important rule is that if you cannot reach something, you should ask for it. So we often have to pass food and plates around. Food including salt and pepper should be passed around the table to the right. By the way, salt and pepper and other sauces are called “condiments”. If you are passed something that you do not want, then you should keep passing it on. Don’t just put it down.

If someone at the other end of the table asks for something, then the people between should pass the dish or condiments straight on. They should not stop and help themselves first. That looks greedy. And no one wants to look as if they are being greedy!

