

第一篇

幽默的理解

A decorative rectangular frame with a floral border. Inside the frame, the text "Lesson 1 多重语义" is written in a stylized font. The background of the frame has a subtle pattern.**Key sentences 重点句子**

1. What time do you open up in the morning?
你早晨几点开门营业？
2. Jesus, aren't you asking me to let you in at this hour in the morning, man?
老天，你老兄该不是让我深更半夜地给你开门吧。
3. I'm not asking to get in. I'm asking to get out.
我不是要进去，我是要出来。
4. Business is terrible.
生意不太好。
5. Really bad.
挺难做。
6. That's true.
没错儿。
7. But I used to turn away 30 to 35 people a night. Now . I only turn away 10 to 15.
过去我每晚能拒绝 30 到 35 位客人，而现在只能拒绝 10 到 15 位。
8. I want action.
我想要够刺激的。
9. I hate this dull town.
我讨厌这个乏味的小镇。

10. I want to make real money.

我想挣大钱。

11. I can't do any of that here.

在这儿我什么也干不成。

12. Just a second.

等一下。

13. My mind is made up.

我已经下定决心了。

14. Don't try to stop me.

不要拦我。

15. I'm not trying to stop you. I want to go with you.

我不是要拦你。我是想跟你一起走。

16. I'm sorry I'm late.

对不起 我迟到了。

17. Goodness.

天哪！

18. This morning she slipped in the bathroom and fell unconscious over the sink.

今天早晨她在浴室里滑倒了，昏倒在洗手池上。

19. I didn't know what to do first. But finally I shaved in the tub.

开始的时候我不知道怎么办，但后来就在浴盆里刮了脸。

Dialogue A

An obviously inebriated man repeatedly calls a bar owner at 2 a. m. when the bar is locked up.

Man: What time do you open up in the morning?

Bar owner: Jesus, aren't you asking me to let you in at this hour in the morning, man?

Man: I'm not asking to get in. I'm asking to get out.

Dialogue B

A motel owner complains to a driver.

Owner: Business is terrible. Really bad.

Driver: But every time I drive by here you have the 'No Vacancy' sign on.

Owner: That's true. But I used to turn away 30 to 35 people a night. Now, I only turn away 10 to 15.

Dialogue C

Tommy: I hate this dull town. I want action. I want to make real money. I want to meet pretty woman. I can't do any of that here, so I am leaving.

Daddy: Just a second, son.

Tommy: Don't try to stop me. My mind is made up.

Daddy: I'm not trying to stop you. I want to go with you.

Dialogue D

Employee: I'm sorry I'm late. My mother-in-law has been staying with us, and this morning she slipped in the bathroom and fell unconscious over the sink.

Employer: Goodness. What did you do?

Employee: I didn't know what to do first. But finally I shaved in the tub.

Notes 注释

①Jesus, aren't you asking me to let you in at this hour in the

morning, man? 你有没有听出话中的不满和愤怒? 这种感情是如何表达出来的呢? 再看下例:

A few feet from the front door to the garage is not real walking.

从前门走到车库可算不上锻炼。

I won't talk with one who steals gold from his grandma's teeth.

我可不愿跟从自己祖母嘴里偷金子的家伙说话。

可见对生活中典型细节进行强调可表达出强烈的不满、鄙视和愤怒等感情。酒吧老板正是强调了 'at this hour in the morning' 才突出表现出了他的愤怒。

- ② I'm not asking to get in. I'm asking to get out. 我不是要进去, 我是要出来。

这是一个很令人意外的答复。那么产生意外的原因是什么? 当顾客询问 'What time do you open up in the morning?' 时酒吧老板根据当时的情境判断, 这是一个按捺不住酒瘾的酒鬼, 其语义只能是: I can't wait to have some drink. 而实际上这个家伙是醉酒后被误锁在酒吧内, 他是说: I'd like you to let me out as soon as possible. 因此是这个句子本身的双重语义导致了误会。

- ③ But every time I drive by here you have the 'No Vacancy' sign on.

但是每次我开车路过都看见你挂着 '客满' 的牌子。

- ④ That's true. But I used to turn away 30 to 35 people a night.

Now, I only turn away 10 to 15.

不错, 但是过去我每晚能拒绝 30 到 35 位客人 而现在只能拒绝 10 到 15 位。

used to do sth. 过去经常干.....

1) I used to drink a lot and was troubled by health problems.

我曾经喝酒太多，因此身体不太健康。

He used to be community-minded.

他曾经热心于社区事务。

表面上看来老板是在抱怨生意难做，他试图通过数据对比来证明其观点。然而这两组数字之间根本就不存在反差，并反映出与其论断完全不同的事实。因而老板很有可能是另有所指，比如自夸。这样，此言的双重语义之间反差很大。这种强烈的意外感产生了幽默。

I hate this dull town. 我讨厌这个乏味的小镇。

hate 讨厌 不喜欢。

He hates people asking him for money. 他讨厌别人向他要钱。

He hates to be late. 他不喜欢迟到。

⑥ I want action.

action 最能引起兴趣、最具刺激性的东西。

⑦ I want to make real money. 我想挣大钱。

make money 挣钱。

They made tons of money out there. 他们在那儿发了。

请不要说成 They earned a lot of money there.

⑧ Just a second, son. 儿子，等一下。

Just a second. = Wait a minute. 可用于劝阻、批评或吸引注意力等。

Just a second, I'm getting dressed. 别着急，我正穿衣服呢。

Just a second, who do you think you are 等等，你以为你是谁呀？

⑨ Don't try to stop me. My mind is made up. 别拦着我。我一定要走。

⑩ I'm not trying to stop you. I want to go with you. 我不是要拦你，而是我跟你一起走。

恐怕在说这句话之前，所有的人都以为爸爸说‘Just a

second, son.’ 不过是想规劝一下小家伙而已 但从这句话看来, 他的真实目的是什么?

⑪ I didn't know what to do first. But finally I shaved in the tub.

开始的时候我不知道怎么办, 但最后我就在浴盆里刮了脸。

‘I didn't know what to do first.’这句话有双重语义。对于说话人来说 他考虑的只是如何刮脸 因而 他是在说:

With the old woman over the sink, I didn't know what to do to get shaved first, but finally I solved the problem by shaving in the tub.

而作为听者 就必须为如何救护老人担心了。所以 他们对这句话的理解又会是什么呢?

请思考。

Words and Expressions

inebriated /i'ni:breitid/

repeatedly /ri'pi:tidi/

open up

let sb. in(out)

motel /məu'tel/

complain /kəm'plein/

vacancy /'veikənsi/

sign /sain/

turn away

used to do sth.

pretty /'pri:ti/

action /'ækʃən/

unconscious /ʌn'kənʃəs/

adv. 醉醺醺的

adv. 反复地

(酒店等 开门
让.....进来 出去)

n. 汽车旅馆

v. 抱怨

n. 空位

n. 标志 信号

拒绝

过去经常干.....

adj. 漂亮的 (女人)

n. 具刺激性的东西

adj. 失去知觉的

sink/sɪŋk/

n 洗手池

shave/ʃeɪv/

v. 刮脸

tub/tʌb/

n 浴盆

A decorative rectangular frame with a floral border. Inside the frame, the text "Lesson 2 多重语义" is written in a stylized font. The background of the frame has a subtle pattern.**Key sentences 重点句子**

20. Honey, I'm getting so excited.
亲爱的 我太激动了。
21. Me too.
我也是。
I can't wait to order the lobster.
我等不及了，我要点龙虾。
22. You are going to meet a beautiful young girl who will want to know everything about you.
你将遇上一个美丽的年轻女孩儿，她想了解你的一切。
23. That's great.
太好了。
24. Will I meet her at a party . or what?
我会在晚会上见到她，还是在别的地方？
25. No, next semester in her biology class.
不对 是下个学期 在生物课上。
26. I guess, madam, your family has done enough for this country.
我认为 夫人 您的家庭对国家的贡献够大的了。
27. It's time to give other families the honor.
该把这个机会让给其他家庭了。
28. You told me to go home, get into bed and stay there until you

called.

你让我回家、卧床 然后等你电话。

29. But you never called.

可你根本就没打电话。

30. I didn't?

我没有吗？

31. Then what are you doing out of bed?

那么你跑下床来干什么？

Dialogue A

Doctor in maternity house: On the last evening before your baby is to be delivered, you will be given a complementary dinner.

Wife: Honey, I'm getting so excited.

Husband: Me too. I can't wait to order the lobster.

Dialogue B

Psychic: You are going to meet a beautiful young girl who will want to know everything about you.

Frog: That's great. Will I meet her at a party, or what?

Psychic: No, next semester in her biology class.

Dialogue C

A woman imperiously demands a colonel's commission for her son.

Woman: Mr. President, my grandfather fought at Lexington, My father fought at New Orleans, and my husband was killed at Monterey.

Lincoln: I guess, madam, your family has done enough for this

country. It's time to give other families the honor.

Dialogue D

Patient: Six weeks ago when I was in your office, you told me to go home, get into bed and stay there until you called. But you never called.

Doctor: I didn't? Then what are you doing out of bed?

Notes 注释

Me too. 我也是。用于表达相同的感受、经历等。

——I think I like rock and roll best. 我觉得我最喜欢摇滚乐。

——Me too. 我也是。

② I can't wait to order the lobster. 我等不及了，我要点龙虾。
can't wait to do sth. 急切地要做……

I just can't wait to be king. 我想马上就成为国王。

She couldn't wait to accept my invitation. 她立刻就接受了我的邀请。

妻子和丈夫都说自己很激动，但他们的真实语义却截然不同。妻子为即将到来的小生命激动 而丈夫则惦记着龙虾。

③ You are going to meet a beautiful young girl who will want to know everything about you.

你将遇到一个美丽的女孩，她想知道你的一切。

此句有双重语义，你能否破解一下。

That's great. Will I meet her at a party or what?

太好了。我会在晚会上见到她，还是在别的地方？

现在看来，青蛙对巫师的话做何理解？

You are going to meet a beautiful young girl who will want to know everything about you so as to love you.

No, next semester in her biology class. 不对 是下个学期 在生物课上。

从这句话推断，刚才巫师的真实语义是什么？

You are going to meet a beautiful young girl who will want to know everything about your physical structure.

青蛙以为要交桃花运，而巫师则指杀身之祸。对话双方在语义理解上的偏差如果截然相反的话，对于旁观者就太有趣了。

- ⑥ Mr. President, my grandfather fought at Lexington, My father fought at New Orleans, and my Husband was killed at Monterey.

总统先生，我祖父在列克星敦打过仗，我父亲在新奥尔良战斗过，我丈夫战死在蒙特雷。

这位母亲讲这番话的目的是什么？她试图通过祖上的功劳来为自己的儿子谋求职位。因而其隐含的语义是：I think my son deserves a colonel's commission.

- ⑦ I guess, madam, your family has done enough for this country. 我认为 夫人 您的家庭对国家的贡献够大的了。林肯总统刻意回避了她的真实语义，而仅仅了赞扬了这个家庭为国家所做出的牺牲。

- ⑧ It's time to give other families the honor. 该把这个机会让给其他家庭了。

这句话的真实语义是什么？是要对这个家庭表示关心和体谅吗？很显然，他的意思是：

It's time for other people to die for this country. Therefore your son need not the commission.

- ⑨ I didn't? 我没有吗？其完整形式是 I didn't call you 此句型可用于对否定句的反驳或查证。

——He never goes to work on time. 他从不准时上班，

——He doesn't? Then you should have told me earlier. (查证) 是吗? 那你应当早点告诉我。

——He doesn't? Then how come I see him in the office early in the morning everyday? (反驳) 是吗 那我为什么每天一大早就看见他在办公室里?

⑩ I didn't? Then what are you doing out of bed 那你跑下床来干什么?

由于 I didn't? 能够体现两种语用目的, 因此这句话具有双重语义。你看出来了么?

1) If I had not called you, how could you possibly recover and get out of your bed?

2) Even if I did not call you, you are not supposed to stay out of bed.

Words and Expressions

maternity house

妇产医院

deliver /di'livə/

v. 生产 分娩

complementary /ˌkɒmplə'mentəri/

adj. 补充的

lobster /'lɒbstə/

n. 龙虾

can't wait to do sth.

急切地要做……

fall in love

坠入爱河

psychic /ˈsaɪkɪk/

n. 巫师

semester /si'mestə/

n. 学期

biology /baɪ'ɒlədʒi/

n. 生物学

imperiously /ɪm'piəriəsli/

adv. 蛮横地

colonel /kə:nl/

n. 上校

commission /kə'mɪʃən/

n. 任命



Lesson 3 多重语义

Key sentences 重点句子

32. My lord, please make the lion chasing me a Christian.
主啊，请把那头追我的狮子变成基督徒吧。
33. I made every effort to get away from him but failed.
我想尽了一切办法要摆脱他可都失败了。
34. For giving me this meal of which I'm going to partake, I wish to give my thanks.
感谢主赐与我这顿美餐。
35. I understand that you have just celebrated your ninetieth birthday?
你刚刚度过 90 大寿 是吧？
36. That's wonderful, sir.
这太不平凡了。
37. That's correct —— ninety years of age.
你说的对——我 90 岁了。
38. Well, sir, I hope to have the privilege of interviewing you on your one-hundredth birthday.
先生，我真希望我能荣幸地在您 100 大寿的时候再来采访您。
39. I don't see why not, young man.
年轻人，我看没什么不行的。
40. You look perfectly fit to me.

我看你还挺健壮的吗！

41. I went to my doctor to see if he could help me to give up smoking.

我去看病，看看医生能不能帮我把烟戒掉。

42. What did he say?

他怎么说？

43. He suggested that every time I felt like a smoke I reach for a bar of chocolate.

他建议我每次想抽烟的时候就去找巧克力。

44. Did that do any good?

这个办法怎么样？

45. No —— I can't get the chocolate to light.

不行。巧克力点不着。

46. Why do you keep knocking at my car window?

你这个人老敲我车窗干什么？

47. I'm not interested in you.

我对你不感兴趣。

48. Neither do I, lady.

我对你也不感兴趣 女士。

49. I just wanted to let you know you left your purse on top of your car.

我只是想让你知道你钱包落在了车顶。

Dialogue A

Christian: My lord, please make the lion chasing me a Christian. I made every effort to get away from him but failed.

Lion: For giving me this meal of which I am about to partake, I wish to give my thanks.

Dialogue B

Journalist: I understand that you have just celebrated your
ninetieth birthday? That's wonderful, sir.

Old man: That's correct — ninety years of age.

Journalist: Well, sir, I hope to have the privilege of interviewing
you on your one-hundredth birthday.

Old man: I don't see why not, young man. You look perfectly fit
to me.

Dialogue C

A: I went to my doctor to see if he could help me to give up
smoking.

B: What did he say?

A: He suggested that every time I felt like a smoke I reach for a
bar of chocolate.

B: Did that do any good?

A: No — I can't get the chocolate to light.

Dialogue D

Young woman: Why do you keep knocking at my car window?
I'm not interested in you.

Young man: Neither do I, lady. I just wanted to let you know
you left your purse on top of your car.

Notes 注释

My lord, please make the lion chasing me a Christian
主啊，请把这头追我的狮子变成基督徒吧。
这句话的真实语义是什么？