

英语茶座系列

英语品鉴 天下奇闻

毛荣贵 范武邱 编著

上海交通大学出版社

内 容 提 要

本书为“英语茶座系列”丛书之一,是《英汉比读 天下奇闻》的姊妹篇。书中所选短文精巧别致,具有趣味性和鲜明的时代感,每篇短文前后各附有“导读”和“赏析”类栏目,使读者在轻松的阅读中学到地道的英语。

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前 言

端坐书房,面对咫尺电脑屏幕,即能与远在天边的友人神聊一番,“弹指”之间,发生在世界各地的事情,大到反恐搏杀的战场,小到穷乡僻岛的奇事,均能尽收眼底!

此刻,你会感到地球之小,“地球村”三个字朴素地道出了“天涯若比邻”的诗情!

然而,当你聚焦世界各地的奇闻趣事,你又会仰面会慨叹:世界之大,无奇不有!

世界的每个角落,每天都在发生着令人称奇的真实故事,或曰 anecdote(轶事,奇闻)。从世界各地传来的这些故事,或让你喷饭,或使你震惊,或发你深思,或博你一笑。

本书收入的 204 则英语短文,几乎“囊括”了在过去的一年发生在世界各地的奇闻。

我们编辑此书,不仅让读者纵览人情世态,洞悉千奇百谲,领受异域文化,更是为了让读者在轻松愉快的心情下学习地道的英语。

你是否震惊?

——人咬巨蟒 竟然死里逃生!

你是否相信?

——半数印度妇女视“打老婆”为正当

你是否哀叹?

——只因打碎一片玻璃 换来二十九年铁窗生涯

你是否萌动恻隐之心?

——误作麋鹿 惨死仁兄枪口下.....

你是否觉得不妨一试?

——情话:对准左耳说

巧用吸尘器,救人一命!

君不见：本书的文章虽短若盆景，小如橄榄，却特别耐看，耐品，韵味粲然，余香悠悠。

许多文章的主题句妙绝！值得慢读和模仿。读一句，即知全篇，学一句，即识英语表达之特色。如：德国柏林的一家“拆车中心”让顾客对旧车进行疯狂的破坏，以释心中烦闷。每次收费 2 美元。心理压力沉重者前来“发泄”，效果奇好！本文的主题句（典型的圆周句 / Periodic Sentence）何等精彩：A Berlin car recycling center has come up with a novel way to win customers and reduce the public's need for therapists: car smashing.

《人咬巨蟒 竟然死里逃生》一文写得文采灿然。标题 (Man Bites Python, Escapes Death)

出现了 Python(巨蟒)，而在文章里，作者却分别换用 monster 和 reptile 的表达，以求遣词之新，这在英语中称为 Elegant Variation(求雅换词)，此文的以下三句中的动词你是否觉得用得不俗？

- A South African man bit his way to freedom.
- I froze for almost 10 seconds.
- Sibanda sank his teeth into . . .

“喜新厌旧”者，首推美国人，他们喜造新词，且不忘融入幽默。他们戏称长时间看电视者为 couch potatoes。这种 couch potatoes “盛产”于何方？答案尽在 Italians, Spanish Are Europe's Top TV Addicts 一文之中。短文弥漫着西方社会的文化信息，又很讲究辞采。如：

- British viewers were not far behind. . .
- Austrians proved more imaginative in their choice of entertainment, watching just 2.5 hours per day.
- Putting to rest fears that the Internet would draw viewers away from the television set, the report showed that Europeans are watching more television than ever.

第 3 句的开头有晦涩之嫌。但是，你如果能够整理出其正常词序是 (Putting the fear to rest that. . .)，则晦涩去矣！

英语青睐“尾重句”(End-Weight)。Drunken Partygoer Mistaken for Sleeping Bear 一文很短，三句话而已。荷兰的一位喝得醉醺醺的 party bear 倒卧路旁，让警察大吃一惊！文章的第二句

散发馥郁的英语味。主句(inspection revealed that...)短如兔尾,而句子却“架床叠屋,拖泥带水”!

- Dutch police were taken aback on Sunday when they found what looked like a slumbering bear on a roadside verge in the south of the country, the news agency ANP reported.
- Closer inspection revealed that the sleeper was a drunken human in a bear suit, who said he had drunk 15 liters of beer at a party in Engelen and decided to walk home afterwards.
- The 22-year-old party bear had barely left the village when he sank into an alcoholic stupor by the roadside.

每篇短文都有一个“导读”,希望她能成为一名称职的导游,三言两语,就让你明白全文的妙处,希望她能成为一种 appetizer(开胃食品,开胃物),吊起你的阅读欲。

每篇短文都拖了一个“尾巴”(以下四者选其一:词汇学习、翻译尝试、难点小析、品味佳句),希望她们能成为你的旅途中新结识的朋友,和你指点江山,切磋学艺。

参加本书编写工作的还有:毛竹晨、姚蔷珍、陈衡、黎昌抱、张韧弦、李蕴、徐曙、王小菲以及美国友人 Bill Hofmann、Rosemary Adang、Dorine Huston 等。

没有他们的倾心投入和参与,本书不可能以现在的面貌与读者见面。在此,我们对他们辛勤的工作表示由衷的谢意。

由于作者水平所限,书中舛误势必不在少数。我们热忱期待读者直言指正。

毛荣贵 范武邱

2001年12月27日

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