

英 语 套 餐

(1)

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内 容 简 介

此书为趣味英语读物,其中包括“天南海北”、“语言一角”、“寓言”、“故事”、“幽默”、“笑话”、“双关语”、“谚语”、“诗歌”、“科学”、“常识”、“动脑筋”等十多个栏目。编者将这十多个栏目下的内容进行了精心的组合,使读者每翻开一页都有新的感觉。此书内容丰富,可读性强,对知识点的讲解细致深入,还附有精美插图。它能让读者在轻松和快乐中把英语学得更好。

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How Is the New Year Celebrated

新年庆祝活动种种

Germany: The Germans greet the new year with fireworks and crackers . Many villages and towns hold tree climb contests . The winners are called “ New Year Heroes ”.

德国: 德国人以爆竹和烟花迎接新年。许多村镇举行爬树比赛, 获胜者被称为“ 新年英雄 ”。

Bulgaria: All the families turn off their lights for three minutes at the last stroke of the New Year s Eve .

保加利亚: 除夕钟声最后一响时, 家家户户都要熄灯三分钟。

Greece: People elect beautiful girls to act as “ angels ” to send gifts to the children of all the households .

希腊: 人们推选美丽的姑娘当“ 天使 ”, 给各家的孩子送礼物。

Paraguay: All the people in Paraguay eat cold food for the five days before the New Year s Day . The custom is to commemorate their revolutionary martyrs .

巴拉圭: 所有的巴拉圭人在元旦之前的五天中都吃冷食。这一习俗是为了纪念革命烈士。

Brazil: The Brazilian people pull their ears

during the new year greetings .

巴西:巴西人在拜年时要拉耳朵。

Canada: Instead of clearing away snow, the Canadians pile snow around their houses on New Year's Day to keep away evils .

加拿大:元旦那天,加拿大人不但不把雪清除掉,反而在房屋四周堆上雪,以防止邪魔入侵。

On Invention

The universe is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper .

—Eden Phillpotts

The printing press and gunpowder were invented at the same time, and it's a question which has done more for the human race .

—Finley Peter Dunne

The greatest invention of the nineteenth century was the invention of the method of invention .

—A . N . Whitehead

People think of the inventor as a screwball, but no one asks the inventor what he thinks of other people .

—Charles F . Kettering

Stories of Words

LIMERICK (五行打油诗)

Despite the fact that the Limerick undoubtedly derives its name from Limerick County,¹ Ireland, the Old Sod² cannot claim credit for the origin of the *Limerick*. The verse form was first used by Edward Lear,³ an English writer, whose *Book of Nonsense* remains popular today, more than a hundred years after its publication. One of his earliest *Limericks*, appearing in 1846, was:

A flea and a fly in a flue

Were impressed, so what could they do?

Said the flea, " Let us fly !"

Said the fly, " Let us flee !"

So they flew through a flaw in the flue .

Interestingly enough, Lear did not call these verses *Limericks*. That name was first attached to the verse form more than fifty years later when, about 1898, it became a popular taproom fad to bawl out the line " We ll all come up, come up to Limerick " between verses of *Limericks* rather than the one quoted above.⁴

[注释]

- 1 . **imerick County**: 利默里克县,爱尔兰地名。
- 2 . **the Old Sod**: 故乡。
- 3 . **Edward Lear** (1812—1888): 英国幽默大师和画家。他的 *Book of Nonsense* 初版于 1846 年。
- 4 . **it became a popular taproom fad ... quoted above**: 后来人们在酒吧间一边念打油诗,一边喊:“ **We ll all come up, come up to Limerick** ”,这简直成了一种风尚。不过他们念的打油诗已不是本文前面所引用的那一首了。

New Year s

**The usual way to ring out the
New Year is to drink out the old
one .**

**New Year s Day starts out by making both
ends of the years meet .**

**On New Year s Eve, the old year ends with
people mixing drinks, and the new year be-
gins with drinks mixing people .**

Evan Esar

* * *

**This fish has a thin fin;
That fish has a fat fin;
This fish is a fish that has
A thinner fin than that fish .**

A Big Eater - Snake

How would you like to attempt to¹ swallow a piece of meat several times larger than your head without even chewing the meat? You could not do it. Yet snakes do this very thing with no apparent difficulty.²

They are able to perform this unusual feat because of the manner³ in which their mouths and throats are made. A snake has sharp pointed teeth which slope backward. Such teeth are of little value for chewing.⁴ However, they are very valuable for holding anything which has been started into the snake's mouth. The jaws of a snake do not have a fixed joint like ours, instead, they have a loose kind of hinge which permits the mouth to open wider and wider as the object to be swallowed is forced down the throat. The bones around the throat are also loosely fastened to each other.

With this equipment garter snakes⁵ and other small snakes are able to swallow mice. And some of the larger snakes, such as the python and the boa constrictor,⁶ have been known to swallow good-sized animals. As you would expect, such a meal lasts several

weeks; and so snakes do not need a regular time for meals .

[注释]

1 . **How would you like to attempt to:** 你想试试……吗?

2 . **with no apparent difficulty:** 显得毫不费劲。

3 . **manner:** 方式, 形状。

4 . **of little value for chewing:** 不能起咀嚼作用。

5 . **garter snakes:** 一种花纹蛇。

6 . **python:** 蟒蛇; **boa constrictor:** 大蟒蛇。

Overcharge 额外收费

Dentist: ¹ **I m sorry, madam, but I ll have to charge you twenty five dollars pulling your son s tooth .**

Mother: **Twenty-five dollars ! But I thought you only charged five dollars for an extraction .**²

Dentist: **I usually do . But your son yelled so loud, he scared four other patients out of the office .**

[注释]

1 . **dentist:** 牙科医生。

2 . **extraction** 在这里指拔牙。

*

*

*

—**What parts of Berlin are in France ?**

—**The letters *e*, *r*, and *n* .**

A Collection of Animal Collectives

band of gorillas	ed of clams, oysters
bevy of quail, swans	brace of ducks
brood of chicks	cast of hawks
cete of badgers	charm of goldfinches
chattering of choughs	cloud of gnats
clowder of cats	clutch of chicks
clutter of cats	colony of ants
congregation of plovers	
covey of quail, partridge	
cry of hounds	down of hares
drift of swine	drove of cattle, sheep
exaltation of larks	flight of birds
flock of sheep, geese	gaggle of geese
gam of whales	gang of elks
grist of bees	herd of elephants
hive of bees	horde of gnats
husk of hares	kindle of kittens
knot of toads	leap of leopards
leash of greyhounds, foxes	
litter of pigs	
mob of kangaroos	murder of crows
muster of peacocks	mute of hounds
nest of vipers	nide of pheasants
pack of hounds, wolves	pair of horses

pod of whales, seals	pride of lions
school of fish	sedge of cranes
shoal of fish, pilchards	
skein of geese	
skulk of foxes	sleuth of bears
souder of boars, swine	
span of mules	
spring of teals	swarm of bees
team of ducks, horses	tribe of goats
troop of kangaroos, monkeys	
volery of birds	watch of nightingales
wing of plovers	yoke of oxen

If Many Men Knew

What Many Men Know

**If many men knew what many
men know,**

**If many men went where many
men go,**

If many men did what many men do,

The world would be better; I think so, don't you?

The Way to London

Somebody asked me, a man, in brown,

Which is the way to London?

One foot up, the other down,

That is the way to London Town.

A Cabbie s Life

**The following is a talk by a
London taxi driver named Phil
Johnson:**

**“ I ve been a cab driver for nearly ten
years . Most London taxi drivers own their own
cabs .**

**“ It s a nice job most of the time . You meet
a lot of people . I always work nights, because
I can t stand the traffic during the day . I live
twenty miles outside London and I leave for
work at 5:30 in the afternoon .**

**“ I usually go home between 2:00 and 3:00
in the morning .**

**“ Some very strange things happen late at
night . The other day I was taking a woman
home from a party . She had her little dog
with her . When we got to her house she found
that she d lost her key . So I waited in the cab
with the dog while she climbed in the win-
dow .**

**“ I waited ... and waited ... After half an
hour of ringing the bell I decided to find out
what was going on . I tied the dog to a tree and
started to climb in the window . The next
thing I knew the police came . They thought I**

was a thief ! Luckily the woman came down-stairs . She d gone to sleep and forgotten about me and the dog . ”

**— hy is it easy to break into
an old man s house ?**

**—Because his gait (gate) is
broken and his locks are
few .**

* * *

**— hy are fixed stars like pens, ink and pa-
per ?**

—Because they are stationary (stationery) .

* * *

—Why doesn t a bike stand up by itself ?

—Because it s two tyred (too tired) .

* * *

The Chicken

**Curious Chris: Is a chicken big
enough to eat* when it s three
weeks old ?**

Teacher: Of course not .

**Curious Chris: Then how does it manage to
live ?**

[注释] * 学生问的 to eat 是指鸡“吃”东西,老师理解成了“可以吃”。

A Little Test

Which fits the definition, A, or B?

(哪一个词符合定义, A 还是 B?)

Definition	A	B
1 . to influence	effect	effect
2 . to disparage	deprecate	depreciate
3 . easy to read	eligible	legible
4 . shrewd	ingenious	ingenuous
5 . front side of a coin	inverse	obverse
6 . snakelike	obsidian	ophidian
7 . children's specialist	paediatrician	orthopaedist
8 . foreboding	presentiment	presentment
9 . winding	tortuous	torturous
10 . mercenary	venal	venial

Answers: 1 . a 2 . b 3 . b 4 . a 5 . b

6 . b 7 . a 8 . a 9 . a 10 . a

How do you translate
these sentences
into Chinese?

- 1 . Go it while you are young .
- 2 . The Cavalry were well mounted .
- 3 . She is careless of her dress .
- 4 . He is behind time .

- 5 . **She had words with him .**
- 6 . **He took my advice in good part .**
- 7 . **We parted the best friends .**
- 8 . **I am in his debt .**
- 9 . **She will make you a good wife .**
- 10 . **We searched him to no purpose .**

参考译文：

- 1 . 青春不再,努力为之。
- 2 . 骑兵骑的都是好马。
- 3 . 她不爱惜衣服。
- 4 . 他迟到了。
- 5 . 她和他吵嘴了。
- 6 . 他听取了我的劝告。
- 7 . 我们分手时是极好的朋友。
- 8 . 我欠他钱。
- 9 . 她将成为你的好妻子。
- 10 . 我们搜了他的身,但一无所获。

A Fellow Named Sydney

**There was a young fellow
named Sydney**

Who drank till he ruined his kidney .

It shrivelled and shrank^{*}

As he sat there and drank,

But he had a good time at it, didn't he ?

[注释] * shrivelled and shrank: got smaller

A Good Fit

Did you ever notice how satisfactorily your skin fits your body ? If you grow six inches and gain ten pounds, your skin still fits . The skin, which grows as you grow, is a delicate membrane covering your entire body . The skin keeps out water, assists in keeping you warm or cool, and protects the body from wear and tear . It also prevents germs from entering the body .

Since the skin is so precious, it is most desirable that we care for it . However hard we try, the skin will occasionally be cut or broken . Germs are apt to enter the body at such openings; and unless we act immediately to remove or kill all the germs, serious consequences may follow .

If a cut bleeds, the flow of blood will wash out the majority of the germs which may have entered; so it is best to let it bleed a short time . Then wash thoroughly with soap and water, and bandage with a clean cloth . Sometimes it is desirable to paint the cut with a mild antiseptic solution to check germ action . By following these directions for a small cut, you may stop trouble before it gets well

started .

Invisible Drawing

Jean: Look . I drew a police officer chasing a robber ."

Dean: " Where s the robber ?"

Jean: " Escaped ."

Dean: Where s the police officer ?"

Jean: " Ran after the robber ."

George Went to See the Doctor

George went to see the doctor one morning .

" What can I do for you, Mr Smith ?"

" Well, doctor, my nose runs and my feet smell ."

" Hmmm, " said the doctor, " that s awkward . You are built up-side down ."

A Country of Cactuses

仙人掌之国

On the national flag of Mexico (墨西哥) is a strange picture: an eagle on a cactus (仙人掌) with a snake in its beak and its paws grasping the snake's body .

Cactuses are used as the national emblem of Mexico . On the arid land of the tropics (热带), only cactuses can grow . The dry mountains of Mexico are a world of cactuses, just as a Mexican saying goes: " Where there is cactus, there is life ."

The cactus is regarded as the water source in the desert . Its sap (液汁) can quench thirst and is refreshing . The cactus can be cooked to make tasty dishes . People in some places of Mexico entertain guests with them . There is a cactus festival in the mountain districts . It is celebrated every year . During the festival, people gather from every corner of the country, singing and dancing while tasting the delicious drinks of cactus .

The French

* Paris is where the American tourist speaks French and then explains it in English .