

英 语 套 餐

(3)

陈德彰 杨玲娟 编著

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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陈德彰 杨玲娟 编著

责任编辑 江小珍

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Some Idiomatic
Common Comparisons
(一些常见的比较习语)

as *black* as coal, ink, jet,
midnight, pitch, soot

as *bright* as day, noonday,
the light, silver

as *cold* as charity, frog, ice, marble, a stone,
a cucumber

as *hard* as flint, marble, a stone

as *light* as air, a butterfly, a feather, thistle-
down

as *red* as blood, a cherry, fire, a rose

as *silent* as the dead, the grave, the stars

as *smooth* as butter, oil, glass, velvet

as *swift* as an arrow, lightning, thought, the
wind

as *thick* as a cable, hailstone, blackberries,
thieves

as *ugly* as a scarecrow, a toad

as *weak* as a baby, a cat, a kitten, water

as *white* as a sheet, snow, wool

FRIENDSHIP(友谊)

**Friendship,
compounded of esteem and
love, derives from one its
tenderness**

and its permanence from the other .

—Samuel Johnson

**Friendship is the golden thread
that ties the hearts of all the world .**

—John Evelyn

A friend is a neighbour of the heart .

—Blanche Harris

True friendship foresees the needs of others rather than proclaims its own .

—Andre Maurois

Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves .

—James Barrie

**To hear the whispered voice
of another s heart
and understand unspoken words
are talents of those lucky few—
people who are precious to the world .**

—Theresa Ann Hunt

**Small service is true service while it
lasts;**

**Of friends, however humble, scorn not
one;**

**The daisy by the shadow that it casts
Protects the lingering dew-drop from the
sun .**

—William Wordsworth

**After the verb to *love*, to *help* is the most
beautiful verb in the world !**

—Bertha von Suttner

A friend is one who:

**pushes you in the swing,
pulls you in the ladder,
pats you on the back
and hugs you good-bye .**

—Katherine N . Davis

Right Hand and Left Hand

Many studies have been made recently about hand preference in humans . They have brought interesting results . It has been found that many more men than women are left-handed; that all children use both hands about equally until they are three years old; and that hand preference is not clearly marked until age six . Above that age, most people favour one particular hand .

Definitions by Some Philosophers

Bore , n . A person who talks when you wish him to listen .

Brain , n . An apparatus with which we think that we think .

Calamity , n . Calamities are of two kinds: misfortune to ourselves, and good fortune to others .

Cannon , n . An instrument employed in the rectification of national boundaries .

Debauchee , n . One who has so earnestly

pursued pleasure that he has had the misfortune to overtake it .

***Egotist, n .* A person of low taste, more interested in himself than in me .**

***Future, n .* That period of time in which our affairs prosper, our friends are true and our happiness is assured .**

***Genealogy, n .* An account of one s descent from a man who did not particularly care to trace his own .**

***Hand, n .* A singular instrument worn at the end of a human arm and commonly thrust into somebody s pocket .**

***Marriage, n .* The state or condition of a community consisting of a master, a mistress and two slaves, making in all two .**

***Patience, n .* A minor form of despair, disguised as a virtue .**

***Peace, n .* In international affairs, a period of cheating between two periods of fighting .**

***Philanthropist, n .* A rich (and usually bald) old gentleman who has trained himself to grin while his conscience is picking his pocket .**

Some Intransitive Verbs Used Transitively

- 1 . **e dreamed a terrible dream last night .**
他昨天晚上做了一个可怕的梦。
- 2 . **e slept the sleep of the just .**
他问心无愧,睡得很踏实。
- 3 . **he smiled her acquiescence .**
她微笑了一下,表示默许。
- 4 . **is father looked his consent .**
他父亲表示同意地看了一眼。
- 5 . **e looked the thanks he could not express .**
他的眼光表示了一种他说不出来的感谢。
- 6 . **e said nothing, but looked all love and sympathy .**
他什么也没有说,目光里充满了慈爱和同情。
- 7 . **r . Astor said nothing, but laughed dissent .**
阿斯特先生一声也不响,只是笑了笑表示不同意。
- 8 . **hey talked the night away .**
他们一直谈到天亮。
- 9 . **took to bed early and slept my headache off .**
我很早上床,睡了一觉,头疼就好了。
- 10 . **e was doing nothing but dream the hours**

away .

他只是做梦般地在那儿消磨时间。

- 11 . **he baby *cried* itself to sleep .**

孩子哭着哭着就睡着了。

- 12 . **he old woman almost *cried* her heart out .**

老妇人哭得伤心极了。

- 13 . **his playmates *laughed* him out of his funny clothes .**

他的伙伴们都笑他的衣服古怪,他只好不穿了。

- 14 . **the audience *laughed* the speaker down .**

听众哗然大笑,把演说者轰下了台。

- 15 . **the giant *looked* him into submission .**

他在巨人的目光下屈服了。

Darkness

Darkness is quiet .

It creeps like the fog,

It wades through the sky,

It blows through the street,

It brings the moon to rest in

place

Upon the starlight's gleaming face .

Darkness comes after light

When the stars are shining bright,

But then the darkness crawls away

To wait till after day .

Robot Poet

Students of India's Birla Institute of Technology have developed a device that writes poetry at the touch of a button .

The device has been built around a \$ four microprocessor . One of the poems it has composed runs like this:

" Must be from some divine word this rose s day ,

Flowers see the firs ,

Some utterly lovely fear . "

Simple Communications

简单的信息

None are so fond of secrets as those who don't mean to keep them .

不想保守秘密的人对秘密最感兴趣。

He has good judgement who relies not wholly on his own .

不仅仅依赖自己的判断的人能做出好的判断。

Wisdom is good purchase, tho we often pay dear for it .

尽管有时要付很大的代价, 智慧还是值得买的。

Each bird loves to hear itself sing .

所有的鸟都喜欢听自己唱歌。

**If you think twice before you speak once,
you will speak twice better for it .**

说话之前多想一遍,说出来的话就会更好一倍。

Memory tempers prosperity, consoles adversity, cautions youth, and delights old age .

记忆是成功的考验,是逆境中的安慰,是青年的提醒者,是老年人的快乐。

The tongue of Slander slays three: the Speaker, the Spoken To, and the Spoken Of .

诽谤者的舌头杀了三个人:说话人、听的人和被说的人。

**Two things a man should not be angry at:
what he can help, and what he cannot help .**

有两件事一个人不该生气:他能做到的和他无法做到的。

Glass, china, and reputation are easily cracked, and never well mended .

玻璃、瓷器和名誉容易破裂也永远修补不好。

Quarreling is the weapon of the weak .

吵架是弱者的武器。

There is no man so bad but that he secretly respects the good .

再坏的人暗里也尊敬好人。

Bad neighbours count a man s income, but not his expenses .

坏邻居只计算别人的收入,从来不算他的支出。

Some Invented Words (几个发明出来的词)

BLUB a laudatory ad, especially on a book jacket (印在书护封上的) 溢美之词

This word was coined by American humorist Gelett Burgess (1866—1951). At the turn of the century, it was customary to adorn the cover of a novel with the picture of a young woman. When his latest book was about to be distributed at a 1907 booksellers convention, Burgess redesigned its jacket. He placed the requisite female on the cover, added a winsome(迷人的, 可爱的) smile and otherwise enhanced her appearance, and christened her Miss Blinda Blub. The name stuck.

COUNTDOWN a backward counting before the start of an event 倒计时读秒

This expression was first used by director Fritz Lang in his early sci-fi film *The Lady in the Mirror*.

GOBBLEDYGOOK language characterized by circumlocution and rhetoric, especially in government reports 官样文章, 官腔

The word was coined by Texas congressman

Maury Maverick in 1944; **Maverick**, appropriately enough, is a descendant of the **Samuel Maverick** after whom the word **maverick** (a non-conformist (无党派政治家)) came into being .

SQUAWK a low, harsh cry 嘎嘎叫

This is a **portmanteau word** (混成词) created by English author **Lewis Carroll** from **squall** and **squeak** . **Carroll** also coined the term “ **portmanteau word** ” .

How Old Is She ?
她多大 ?

A woman was having some trouble with her heart, so she went to see the doctor . He was a new doctor, and did not know her, so he first asked some questions, and one of them was, “ How old are you ? ”

“ Well, ” she answered, “ I don t remember, doctor, but I will try to think . ” She thought for a minute and then said, “ Yes, I remember now, doctor ! When I married, I was eighteen years old, and my husband was thirty . Now my husband is sixty, I know . And that is twice thirty . So I am twice eighteen . That is thirty-six, isn t it ? ”

Sun, Moon, and Birthdays

太阳、月亮和生日

Of course you know the day, month, and year in which you were born . Could it have been the 2nd of Abh,¹ 5710 ? That doesn't sound familiar to most of you, does it ? But it is a perfectly reasonable calendar date—not on the Gregorian calendar² with which you are most familiar, but on one of the many other calendars still in use by the peoples of the world today . Abh is the eleventh month on the Hebrew calendar, which dates from 3,760 years and 3 months before the beginning of the Christian Era.³ In addition to the earlier Year One, the Hebrew year begins in the middle of September during the harvest time .

Ways of reckoning time were developed slowly through the ages by many peoples . Ancient men could observe that there are three important units of time: the day, the month, and the year . The day and the year depend on the rotation of the earth and its movement around the sun . The month depends on the moon's journey around the earth .

To fit these three units of time into a reliable plan was a great task which took men many centuries to finish . As a matter of fact, the task is really not finished yet since our calendar is not yet perfect . Many people are still trying to change it .

[注释]

- 1 . **bh**: 希伯来历法的 11 月。
- 2 . **Gregorian calendar**: 格里历 (即目前通用的公历)
- 3 . **dates from 3,760... the Christian Era**: 从公元前 3,760 年又三个月为其历法的开始。

Why Is It Difficult to Beat Habit ?

(为什么习惯不易改变 ?)

Habit is most difficult to defeat . If you delete the first letter, it does not change “ a bit .” Delete another, and you still have a “ bit ” left . Take off still another, and the whole of “ it ” remains . But if you take off another, it is wholly used up . This goes to prove that if you want to get rid of habit, you must throw it off altogether .

Rock Music Can Damage Your Health

Stereo equipment¹ is a booming industry . In more ways than one, sophisticated amplifiers and speakers reproduce the sounds of music with great accuracy and at very high volumes .² Some rock music reaches sound levels of more than 120 decibels .³ And this volume can cause pain and permanent damage to the hearing .

Now rock fans⁴ and musicians can buy special ear plugs to protect their hearing . If you wear Sonic II Noise Filters⁵ in your ears you can hear most normal sounds, rhythms and tones . And at the same time the ear plugs filter out dangerous high level noises . You can still hear sounds as quiet as whispers and you can even hear a voice on the telephone . But inside the ear plugs, there is a tiny diaphragm which picks up only the dangerous, high sounds, absorbs them and protects the inner ear from them . This is a new approach to ear plugs . The Sonic II Noise Filter may give neighbours and parents a whole new approach to rock music too .

[注释]

- 1 . **tereo equipment**: 指立体声收音机、录音机等音响设备。
- 2 . **volume** 指音量。
- 3 . **decibel**: 分贝(音强单位)。
- 4 . **rock fans**: 摇滚音乐迷。
- 5 . **Sonic II Noise Filters**: 一种过滤噪音的耳塞。

The Ladies Lavatory (女厕所)

The air hostess¹ was in the small kitchen at the back of the aeroplane preparing the trays for lunch when a little old lady came and spoke to her .“ Could you please tell me, ” she asked, “ where the ladies ” lavatory is in this aeroplane ?”

“ Yes, madam, ” said the air hostess and smiled .“ It is right at the *other* end of the aeroplane—at the front .”

The little old lady went too far . She walked *all the way* to the front of the aeroplane, opened the door in front of her, and saw the captain² of the aeroplane and the other officers . They were all busy at their work and did not see her . She went out again, shut the door and returned to the air hostess .

“ Oh, didn t you find it, madam ?” the girl