

英语幽默精编②

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内 容 提 要

本书根据国外出版的书刊精选英语幽默故事 300 余篇,每篇幽默故事均有精解注释和关键句的译文,使读者一目了然,能更好地体会其中的乐趣和哲理。本书内容包括人生、工作、学习、社会和文化。这些幽默故事大多在英语国家广为流传,语言诙谐,寓意明确,易于理解,可以使每位读者增添生活的情趣和信心。

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前 言

英语幽默是经过锤炼而形成的语言形式。它语言通俗，寓意深刻，给人以启迪，是英语学习中不可忽视的一个重要方面。

英语幽默在一定程度上反映了英语国家的政治经济、历史文化和风土人情。人们可以用幽默的方式来消除分歧，表示歉意，表示拒绝或进行批评。对于有些事情来说，幽默是成功的惟一途径。我们还可以利用幽默的方式减除痛苦，抵消伤感，缓解紧张，松弛情绪，怡悦心境，增添生活的情趣和信心。总之，幽默感是智力上的优越感。

本书精编的英语幽默故事在遣词造句方面主要有四种方式。

一、谐音。谐音是英语幽默的一种主要方式，这方面的例子不胜枚举。

“Knock, knock.”

—“Who’s there?”

—“No bell.”

—“Nobel, who?”

—“No bell, so I knock, knock.”

来访者敲门是因为门上没有门铃(No bell)，屋里的人却误以为是一位名叫Nobel的人来访，于是闹出上述笑话。

二、一词多义。英语中一词多义的现象很多，而英语幽默

就利用了英语词汇的这一特点。

When the waitress asked how we'd like our steaks , I said ,
“ Medium ,” my husband said , “ Medium ,” and my seven-year-old son said trustingly , “ Large. ”

medium 可作“ 烤制适中 ”解 ,也可以作“ 中等 ,适中 ”解。饭店的牛排 ,根据烤制的程度 ,分为 rare , medium 和 well-done ,而不依大、中、小区分。这个顽童争强好胜 ,以为他父母亲点的是中份 ,便开口要大份。

三、双关语。用词造句在表面上是一种意思 ,而其深层结构却隐含着另一种意思 ,这种修辞方法叫作双关语。在英语幽默故事中的双关语也是屡见不鲜的。

“ For ten long , lean years ,” the author told the producer ,
“ I've been writing this drama , working on it till my fingers were cramped and aching , my brain and body weary. ”

“ Too bad ,” the producer murmured , “ all work , and no play. ”

从表面上看 play 作“ 消遣 ”解 ,如成语 All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. 但他的弦外有音 ,其真实用意是批评编剧劳而无获 ; 辛辛苦苦 ,没有剧本 ”。

四、成语引伸。英语幽默的一般做法是有时根据实际需要 ,将成语稍加修改而产生新意。

“ Never ventured , never lost. ”这是“ Never ventured , never gained. (不入虎穴 ,焉得虎子)的变异。一词之变 ,反映了两种截然不同的处世哲学 ,也揭示了前怕狼、后怕虎的懦夫性格。

本书内容丰富 ,题材广泛 ,形式多样 ,既适用于课堂教学 ,

又有助于读者提高学习英语的兴趣和应用英语的能力。对故事中重复率较低的词汇 ,反复注释。

在编写过程中 ,我们参阅了众多的书刊和资料 ,在此我们向原作者表示衷心的感谢。参加本书编写的人员有马洵、马琳、刘哲、罗建奇、张春晓、杜毅、张佩伟、陈琛、翟文杨、李霞、刘畅、朱国宾、焦梅青等。

由于编者水平所限 ,书中可能有欠妥之处 ,诚请读者指正。

编 者

2001 年 12 月

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