

Lesson 15 Fifty pence worth of trouble

fifty pence worth of trouble 50 便士的麻烦.

在新概念 3 册的 Lesson 6 Smash-and-Grab 中, 也有类似的表达 "They had got away with thousands of pounds worth of diamonds", 此处 "thousands of pounds worth of diamonds" 意为数千磅的钻石.

由此, A worth of B 理解为 "价值 A 的 B" 即可.

1. Children always **appreciate small gifts of money**.

appreciate 感激, 欣赏, 在此意为 "喜欢".

small gifts of money 在此理解为 "零花钱".

译: 孩子们总是喜欢得到一些零花钱.

2. Mum or dad, **of course**, provides **a regular supply of pocket money**, but **uncles and aunts** are always a source of **extra income**.

of course 为插入语.

pocket money 零花钱.

provide a regular supply of pocket money 经常提供零花钱.

uncles and aunts 叔舅婶姨.

extra income 额外的收入.

译: 父母当然会经常给孩子零花钱, 但叔舅婶姨也是孩子们额外收入的来源.

3. **With some children**, small sums **go a long way**.

with some children 对于有些孩子来讲. 此处的 with 在本质上可理解为 "和.....在一起".

肯定会有心细的朋友问, small sums 该如何理解. 不妨按照我的思路来:

child 1 —— a small sum, child 2 —— a small sum, ... , child n —— a small sum.

上面这种表示方式的意思是 孩子 1 有少量的钱, 孩子 2 也有少量的钱,, 孩子 n 也有少量的钱.

sum 可作 "总数" 讲, 这里引申为 "钱(的总数)". (将每个孩子的钱表达为 a small sum)

如此一来, 有 n 个孩子, 也就对应着 n 把少量的钱, 所以用 small sums 来描述这 n 个孩子(少量)的钱.

还可以这样理解: 对于少量的钱的完整表达应为 "small sums(of money)", 这里省略了 "of money".

go a long way 在此比喻为 "(钱)花很长时间".

译: 对于有些孩子来说, 少量的钱也可以花很长时间.

4. If **fifty pence pieces** are not **exchanged** for sweets, they **rattle** for months inside **money boxes**.

fifty pence pieces 多个 50 便士的硬币.

exchange A for B 以 A 换 B.

这里需要注意 a fifty pence 和 fifty pennies 的区别: a fifty pence 指 1 枚 50 便士的硬币, 而 fifty pennies 指 50 枚 1 便士的硬币.

rattle 格格作响.

money boxes 存钱罐.

译: 如果 50 便士(的零钱)不拿来换糖吃, 则可以放在存钱罐里叮当作响上好几个月.

5. Only very **thrifty** children manage to **fill up** a money box.

thrifty 节俭的.

fill up 填满....., 装满..... .

译: 只有十分节俭的孩子才能将存钱罐装满.

6. For most of them, **fifty pence is a small price to pay for a nice big bar of chocolate.**

fifty pence 50 便士.

small price 低廉的价格, 小的代价.

a nice big bar of chocolate 一大块好的巧克力.

to pay for a nice big bar of chocolate 为主语补足语, 对主语进行补充说明.

译: 对大部分孩子来说, 用 50 便士去买一大块好的巧克力, 是算不了什么的.

7. My nephew, George, has a money box, but it is always empty. **Very few of the fifty pence pieces and pound coins I have given him have found their way there.**

very few of ... 很少的.....

fifty pence pieces 多个 50 便士的硬币.

pound coins 一些 1 英镑的硬币.

find one's way there 进入存钱看, 即"放入存钱罐".

译: 我的外甥乔治有一个存钱罐, 但里面总是空的. 我给了他不少 50 便士的硬币和 1 英镑的硬币, 但没有几个存到存钱罐里.

8. I gave him fifty pence yesterday and **advised him to save it. Instead** he bought himself **fifty pence worth of trouble.**

advised him to save it 建议他存起来.

instead 的出现说明他并没有将钱存起来, 而是用钱做了别的事情.

fifty pence worth of trouble 50 便士的麻烦.

昨天我给了他 50 便士并让他存起来, 他却拿这钱给自己买了 50 便士的麻烦.

9. On his way to **the sweet shop**, he **dropped** his fifty pence and it **bounced** along the pavement and then disappeared down a **drain**.

the sweet shop 糖果店.

drop (使)落下, 投下.

drop his fifty pence 50 便士(的硬币)掉在地上.

bounce 弹起, 跳起.

bounce along the pavement 沿着人行道弹跳.

drain 下水道.

译: 在去糖果店的路上, 他的 50 便士掉到了地上, 顺着人行道跳了几下, 之后掉进了下水道里.

10. George **took off** his jacket, **rolled up** his **sleeves** and **pushed his right arm through the drain cover.**

take off his jacket 脱下夹克.

roll up his sleeves 挽起袖子.

push his right arm through the drain cover 将右胳膊伸进下水道.

译: 乔治脱下夹克, 挽起袖子, 将右胳膊伸进了下水道.

11. He could not find his **fifty pence piece** anywhere, and **what is more**, he could not **get his arm out.**

fifty pence piece 一枚 50 便士的硬币

what is more 更有甚者, 此外. 在此处有加强语气的意思.

get his arm out 将胳膊从下水道里伸回来.

译: 他找了半天, 也没找到他那枚 50 便士的硬币. 此外, 他的胳膊伸不回来了.

12. **A crowd of people gathered round him** and a lady **rubbed his arm with soap and butter**, but **George was firmly stuck.**

a crowd of people 一群人.

gather round him 围在他周围.

rub his arm with soap and butter 往他胳膊上擦肥皂和黄油.

George was firmly stuck. 乔治(的胳膊)(依然)卡得紧紧的.

译: 他的周围围上了一群人, 一位女士往他的胳膊上擦肥皂和黄油, 但是乔治的胳膊依然卡得紧紧的.

13. **The fire brigade** was called and two **fire fighters** freed George **using a special type of grease**.

the fire brigade 消防队.

fire fighters 消防员.

grease 润滑油.

a special type of grease 一种特殊的润滑油.

using a special type of grease 为方式状语.

译: 有人打电话叫消防队来, 两位消防员用一种特殊的润滑油才使乔治把胳膊从下水道里伸回来.

14. George was not too **upset** by his experience because the lady **who owns the sweet shop heard about** his troubles and rewarded him with **a large box of chocolates**.

upset 沮丧的.

George was not too upset by his experience 乔治并没有为这次经历感到十分沮丧.

who owns the sweet shop 为 the lady 的定语.

hear about 得知.

hear of 听说过.

reward him with ... 奖励他.....

a large box of chocolates 一大盒巧克力.

译: 乔治并没有为这次经历感到十分沮丧, 因为糖果店的老板娘得知他遭遇的麻烦后, 奖励给他了一大盒巧克力.

全文:

孩子们都喜欢得到一些从天而降的小钱。父母当然会定期给零花钱, 除此之外, 各种叔叔阿姨总能提供额外收入。对一些孩子来说, 即使钱很少, 也可以花很长一段时间。比如如果没有把 50 便士拿来换糖吃, 他们可以将其放在储蓄罐里几个月, 享受那让人愉悦的叮当撞击声。但只有非常节俭的孩子才能把储蓄罐装满。对于大多数孩子来说, 用 50 便士买一大条好吃的巧克力实在是太划算了。

我的外甥乔治就有一个储蓄罐, 但总是空空如也。基本上我给过他的所有五十便士和几磅的硬币都没有被存到里面。昨天我又给了他 50 便士, 告诉他存起来。结果没想到, 他却给自己买了 50 便士的麻烦。去糖果店的路上, 他的 50 便士掉了, 沿着人行道弹了好几下后, 掉进了排水口。乔治于是脱掉夹克, 卷起袖子, 把右手挤进了下水盖的缝隙。可结果是, 他怎么都没能找到他的 50 便士硬币。而且更惨的是, 他的胳膊拔不出来了。一群人见状围了过来, 其中一位女士还在他胳膊上抹了肥皂和黄油, 但乔治的胳膊仍然紧紧卡着。最终, 消防队被叫来了, 两名消防队员用一种特别的润滑剂帮乔治拔出了手。这件事倒是没有太打击乔治, 因为糖果店老板娘听了他的遭遇后, 奖给他一大盒巧克力。

Lesson 23 One man's meat is another man's poison

Listen to the tape then answer the question below.

听录音，然后回答以下问题。

What was it about snails that made the writer collect them for his friend on that day in particular?

People become quite illogical when they try to decide what can be eaten and what cannot be eaten. If you lived in the Mediterranean, for instance, you would consider octopus a great delicacy. You would not be able to understand why some people find it repulsive. On the other hand, your stomach would turn at the idea of frying potatoes in animal fat----the normally accepted practice in many northern countries. The sad truth is that most of us have been brought up to eat certain foods and we stick to them all our lives.

No creature has received more praise and abuse than the common garden snail. Cooked in wine, snails are a great luxury in various parts of the world. There are countless people who, ever since their early years, have learned to associate snails with food. My friend, Robert, lives in a country where snails are despised. As his flat is in a large town, he has no garden of his own. For years he has been asking me to collect snails from my garden and take them to him. The idea never appealed to me very much, but one day, after a heavy shower, I happened to be walking in my garden when I noticed a huge number of snails taking a stroll on some of my prize plants. Acting on a sudden impulse, I collected several dozen, put them in a paper bag, and took them to Robert. Robert was delighted to see me and equally pleased with my little gift. I left the bag in the hall and Robert and I went into the living room where we talked for a couple of hours. I had forgotten all about the snails when Robert suddenly said that I must stay to dinner. Snails would, of course, be the main dish. I did not fancy the idea and I reluctantly followed Robert out of the room. To our dismay, we saw that there were snails everywhere: they had escaped from the paper bag and had taken complete possession of the hall! I have never been able to look at a snail since then.

New Words and Expressions 生词和短语

poison (title) /'pɒzən/ n. 毒药

snail (1. 9) /sneil/ n. 蜗牛

illogical (1. 1) /i'lɒkdʒikəl/ adj. 不合逻辑的，无章法的

luxury (1. 10) /'lʌkʃəri/ n. 奢侈品，珍品

octopus (1. 3) /'ɒktəpəs/ n. 章鱼

associate (1. 11) /ə'səʊsieit/ v. 联想到

delicacy (1. 3) /'delikəsi/ n. 美味，佳肴

despise (1. 11) /di'spaiz/ v. 鄙视

repulsive (1. 4) /ri'pʌlsiv/ adj. 令人反感的，令人生厌的

appeal (1. 13) /ə'pi:l/ v. 引起兴致

stomach (1. 5) /'stʌmək/ n. 胃

shower (1. 14) /'ʃaʊə/ n. 阵雨

turn (1. 5) /tɜ:n/ v. 感到恶心，翻胃

stroll (1. 14) /strəʊl/ n. 溜达，散步

fry (1. 5) /frai/ v. 油炸

impulse (1. 15) /'impʌls/ n. 冲动

fat (1. 6) /fæt/ n. (动物、植物) 油

dozen (1. 15) /'dʌzən/ n. 12 个，一打

abuse (1. 9) /ə'bjʊ:z/ n. 辱骂，责骂

fancy (1. 19) /'fænsi/ v. 喜爱，喜欢

Notes on the text 课文注释

1 One man's meat is another man's poison. 这是英语的一句谚语，意思是“对一方有利的未必对另一方也有利”。有时可译作“各有所爱”，同时也有汉语俗语“萝卜青菜各有所爱”的意思。

2 would turn at the idea of..., turn 此处作“恶心”、“作呕”解。at the idea of...是“想到……”的意思。

3 to be brought up, 养育，抚养，stick to 有“坚持”的意思。

4 Cooked in wine, snails..., 用酒烹调的蜗牛……，这是过去分词作状语，表示条件。

5 I happened to be walking in the garden. 我碰巧在花园里散步。happen 后面加不定式表示“碰巧做……”

6 take (亦作 have) possession of, 是“占有”、“拥有”的意思。

参考译文

在决定什么能吃而什么不能吃的时候，人们往往变得不合情理。比如，如果你住在地中海地区，你会把章鱼视作美味佳肴，同时不能理解为什么有人一见章鱼就恶心。另一方面，你一想到动物油炸土豆就会反胃，但这在北方许多国家却是一种普通的烹饪方法。不无遗憾的是，我们中的大部分人，生来就只吃某几种食品，而且一辈子都这样。

没有一种生物所受到的赞美和厌恶会超过花园里常见的蜗牛了。蜗牛加酒烧煮后，便成了世界上许多地方的一道珍奇的名菜。有不计其数的人们从小就知道蜗牛可做菜。但我的朋友罗伯特却住在一个厌恶蜗牛的国家中。他住在大城市里的一所公寓里，没有自己的花园。多年来，他一直让我把我园子里的蜗牛收集起来给他捎去。一开始，他的这一想法没有引起我多大兴趣。后来有一天，一场大雨后，我在花园里漫无目的地散步，突然注意到许许多多蜗牛在我的一些心爱的花木上慢悠悠地蠕动着。我一时冲动，逮了几十只，装进一只纸袋里，带着去找罗伯特。罗伯特见到我很高兴，对我的薄礼也感到满意。我把纸袋放在门厅里，与罗伯特一起进了起居室，在那里聊了好几个钟头。我把蜗牛的事已忘得一干二净，罗伯特突然提出一定要我留下来吃晚饭，这才提醒了我。蜗牛当然是道主菜。我并不喜欢这个主意，所以我勉强跟着罗伯特走出了起居室。使我们惊愕的是门厅里到处爬满了蜗牛：它们从纸袋里逃了出来，爬得满厅都是！从那以后，我再也不能看一眼蜗牛了。