

### Lesson 13 'It's only me'

“是我，别害怕”

Listen to the tape then answer the question below.

听录音，然后回答以下问题。

What did the man expect to find under the stairs?

After her husband had gone to work. Mrs. Richards sent her children to school and went upstairs to her bedroom. She was too excited to do any housework that morning, for in the evening she would be going to a fancy-dress part with her husband. She intended to dress up as a ghost and as she had made her costume the night before, she was impatient to try it on. Though the costume consisted only of a sheet, it was very effective. After putting it on, Mrs. Richards went downstairs. She wanted to find out whether it would be comfortable to wear.

Just as Mrs. Richards was entering the dinning room, there was a knock on the front door. She knew that it must be the baker. She had told him to come straight in if ever she failed to open the door and to leave the bread on the kitchen table. Not wanting to frighten the poor man, Mrs. Richards quickly hid in the small storeroom under the stairs. She heard the front door open and heavy footsteps in the hall. Suddenly the door of the storeroom was opened and a man entered. Mrs. Richards realized that it must be the man from the Electricity Board who had come to read the metre. She tried to explain the situation, saying 'It's only me', but it was too late. The man let out cry and jumped back several paces. When Mrs. Richards walked towards him, he fled, slamming the door behind him.

New words and expressions 生词和短语

costume

n. 化装服

consist

v. 由……组成

sheet

n. 被单

effective

adj. 有明显效果的，有作用的

metre

n. 电表

pace

n. 一步

lee (fled, fled)

v. 逃走

slam

v. 砰地关上

参考译文

理查兹夫人等丈夫上班走后，把孩子送去上学，然后来到楼上自己的卧室。那天上午，她兴奋得什么家务活都不想做，因为晚上她要同丈夫一起参加一个化装舞会。她打算装扮成鬼的模样。头天晚上她已把化装服做好，这时她急于想试试。尽管化装服仅由一个被单制成，却十分逼真。理查兹夫人穿上化装服后下了楼，想看穿起来是否舒服。

理查兹夫人刚刚走进餐厅，前门就传来敲门声。她知道来了一定面包师。她曾告诉过面包师，如果她不去开门，他可直接进门，把面包放在厨房的桌上。理查兹夫人不想吓唬这个可怜人，便赶紧躲到了楼梯下的小储藏室里。她听见前门被打开，走廊里响起重重的脚步声。突然贮藏门开了，一个男人走了进来。理查兹夫人这才想到一定是供电局来人查电表了。她说了声“是我，别怕！”然后想进行一番解释，但已来不及了。那人大叫了一声，惊退了几步。理查兹夫人朝他走去，只见他“砰”的一声关上门逃走了。

### Lesson 21 Daniel Mendoza

丹尼尔.门多萨

Listen to the tape then answer the question below.

听录音，然后回答以下问题。

How many unsuccessful attempts did Mendoza make before becoming Champion of all England?

Boxing matches were very popular in England two hundred years ago. In those days, boxers fought with bare fists for prize money. Because of this, they were known as 'prizefighters'. However, boxing was very crude, for there were no rules and a prizefighter could be seriously injured or even killed during a match.

One of the most colourful figures in boxing history was Daniel Mendoza, who was born in 1764. The use of gloves was not introduced until 1860, when the Marquis of Queensberry drew up the first set of rules. Though he was technically a prizefighter, Mendoza did much to change crude prizefighting into a sport, for he brought science to the game. In this day, Mendoza enjoyed tremendous popularity. He was adored by rich and poor alike.

Mendoza rose to fame swiftly after a boxing match when he was only fourteen years old. This attracted the attention of Richard Humphries who was then the most eminent boxer in England. He offered to train Mendoza and his young pupil was quick to learn. In fact, Mendoza soon became so successful that Humphries turned against him. The two men quarrelled bitterly and it was clear that the argument could only be settled by a fight. A match was held at Stilton, where both men fought for an hour. The public bet a great deal of money on Mendoza, but he was defeated. Mendoza met Humphries in the ring on a later occasion and he lost for a second time. It was not until his third match in 1790 that he finally beat Humphries and became Champion of England. Meanwhile, he founded a highly successful Academy and even Lord Byron became one of his pupils. He earned enormous sums of money and was paid as much as \$100 for a single appearance. He earned enormous sums of money and was paid as much as \$100 for a single appearance. Despite this, he was so extravagant that he was always in debt. After he was defeated by a boxer called Gentleman Jackson, he was quickly forgotten. He was sent to prison for failing to pay his debts and died in poverty in 1836.

New words and expressions 生词和短语

Boxing

n. 拳击

boxer

n. 拳击手

bare

adj. 赤裸的

prizefighter

n. 职业拳击手(尤指古时赤手拳击手)

crude

adj. 粗野的

marquis

n. 侯爵

technically

adv. 严格根据法律意义地

science

n. 科学

popularity

n. 名望

adore

v. 崇拜, 爱戴

alike

adv. 一样地

fame

n. 名声

eminent

adj. 著名的, 杰出的

bitterly

adv. 厉害地

bet

v. 打赌

academy

n. 专业学校

参考译文

extravagant

adj. 浪费的, 奢侈的

poverty

n. 贫困

两百年前, 拳击比赛在英国非常盛行。当时, 拳击手们不戴手套, 为争夺奖金而搏斗。因此, 他们被称作“职业拳击手”。不过, 拳击是十分野蛮的, 因为当时没有任何比赛规则, 职业拳击手有可能在比赛中受重伤, 甚至丧命。

拳击史上最引人注目的人物之一是丹尼尔·门多萨, 他生于 1764 年。1860 年昆斯伯里侯爵第一次为拳击比赛制定了规则, 拳击比赛这才用上了手套。虽然门多萨严格来讲不过是个职业拳击手, 但在把这种粗野的拳击变成一种体育运动方面, 他作出了重大贡献。是他把科学引进了这项运动。门多萨在的全盛时期深受大家欢迎, 无论是富人还是穷人都对他崇拜备至。

门多萨在 14 岁时参加一场拳击赛後一举成名。这引起当时英国拳坛名将理查德·汉弗莱斯的注意。他主动提出教授门多萨, 而年少的门多萨一学就会。事实上, 门多萨不久便名声大振, 致使汉弗莱斯与他反目为敌。两个人争吵不休, 显而易见, 只有较量一番才能解决问题。于是两人在斯蒂尔顿设下赛场, 厮打了一个小时。公众把大笔赌注下到了门多萨身上, 但他却输了。后来, 门多萨与汉弗莱斯再次在拳击场上较量, 门多萨又输了一场。直到 1790 年他们第 3 次对垒, 门多萨才终于击败汉弗莱斯, 成了全英拳击冠军。同时, 他建立了一所拳击学校, 办得很成功, 连拜伦勋爵也成了他的学生。门多萨挣来大笔大笔的钱, 一次出场费就多可达 100 英镑。尽管收入不少, 但他挥霍无度, 经常债台高筑。他在被一个叫杰克逊绅士的拳击手击败后很快被遗忘。他因无力还债而被捕入狱, 最后于 1836 年在贫困中死去。