

## BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

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### Catching Up with Friends 朋友相聚

William: Hello and welcome to Ask About Britain, the programme where we answer your questions about British life and culture. I'm William Kremer.

Yang Li: 大家好我是杨莉。今天的英国问答节目选取了 Jason 提出的下列问题。

### Insert

*My name is Jason. I'm from Harbin, China. I have a question today. You know, among Chinese young people there are some kinds of activities for us to get together and have fun, such as going to a nice bar, cinema, karaoke bar or something like that. So do you British people like karaoke? If not, what's your best way to get your friends together and have some fun?*

Yang Li: Jason 提出的是一个社交方式问题，他想知道英国的年轻人喜欢以什么形式同朋友相聚。同朋友聚一聚就是。

William: Catching up with friends. As we've just heard from Jason, a lot of young people in China like to go to a karaoke bar when they want to catch up or have some fun together.

Yang Li: That's right. It would be interesting to find out whether young Brits have similar tastes or not.

### Insert

*Martin: If I was going to see friends of mine, we might go out into the park or go for a walk or play football. Karaoke wouldn't be something that we would do; but we might sit down and watch TV.*

*Li: Together, with friends?*

*Martin: That's right, yes, or we might watch a film. I like to go out to restaurants; I'm not much of a one for clubbing, although people are and they will drag you along.*

William: That was Martin, a young professional in his late 20s. He said Karaoke wouldn't be something he and his friends do together. Instead they might go for a walk or play football.

Yang Li: 一起散步或踢足球。 I'm not surprised William, as football is so popular in Britain.



- William: Other things he likes doing with friends include watching TV or a film, going to a restaurant but not going clubbing.
- Yang Li: Clubbing 就是蹦迪。Martin 说有些人喜欢, 但是他不喜欢。Do you ever catch up with friends by going clubbing William?
- William: No, I don't Li. There are other things I like better to be honest with you. Let's hear this young woman sharing her views on what young people like to do to catch up with one another.

### Insert

*Yeah, I think they will meet like in cafes for coffee, they will meet for lunch, they will go round to each other's houses, flats, you know; and if they're students they will go to each other's accommodation in halls. They will meet in – they will go to social clubs like book clubs. Internet as well, Facebook, Twitter, MSN, you know, I think that's more like the young persons' thing now.*

- William: It's interesting that she should mention the internet as being the young persons' thing now. It's indispensable for them as a way of catching up with friends.
- Yang Li: 互联网是年轻人离不开的东西 indispensable.
- William: She also mentioned a few popular social networking sites, such as Facebook, Twitter and MSN.
- Yang Li: Facebook 脸书, Twitter 一种微型博客, MSN 即时通讯。
- William: However, nothing is like a face-to-face catch up with friends.
- Yang Li: I agree. 社交网络仍然代替不了朋友凑在一起聚一聚的感觉。比如去咖啡厅坐一坐或者一起吃午餐。
- William: To meet in cafes for coffee or to meet up for lunch.
- Yang Li: 到家里或宿舍坐一坐或一起参加读书俱乐部等社团活动。
- William: To go round each other's houses or to go to social clubs such as book clubs. Let's listen to that clip again.

### Insert

*Yeah, I think they will meet like in cafes for coffee, they will meet for lunch, they will go round to each other's houses, flats, you know; and if they're students they will go to each other's accommodation in halls. They will meet in – they will go to social clubs like book clubs. Internet as well, Facebook, Twitter, MSN, you know, I think that's more like the young persons' thing now.*

- William: So far, we've been looking at young people in their 20s or 30s. How about younger teenagers?

Yang Li: Actually a group of school girls aged 14-15 are eager to tell me how they like to catch up with friends.

**Insert**

*To catch up with my friends I like to go shopping.*

*To catch up with friends we usually go shopping too, or we go to a place to visit such as a day out for fun.*

*Li: Do you remember the last time you went out with friends to visit a place, what is that?*

*We went to visit the Night at the Museum and we stayed overnight at a museum for fun.*

*When I want to catch up with friends I normally go to the cinema.*

*When I go to catch up with friends I usually go to the cinema and maybe get a pizza before and we usually talk and that's fun.*

*I like to go shopping with my friends or to the cinema.*

*We sometimes go to discos or like just hang out in shopping centres and things.*

*Li: Very good. Do you ever go to karaoke?*

*Sometimes, but usually it's just the cinema, shopping and going to like restaurants and stuff like that.*

William: Girls will be girls I'm afraid. They just love shopping together, don't they?

Yang Li: Yes they do. But William you haven't told me yet what your style of catching up with friends is. Going to the theatre or museums I guess?

William: How did you know Li? How did you know? Actually you're right. In fact, in my lunchtime today I went to a museum with a friend.

Yang Li: You see I've seen it, you are such a cultured person! Thanks for joining me today William and thanks to Jason for your interesting question.

William: Yes please feel free to send us your questions to [chinaelt@bbc.co.uk](mailto:chinaelt@bbc.co.uk). Till the next time, bye bye.

Yang Li: Bye for now.

## Glossary

<b>to catch up with friends</b> 和朋友聚一聚	<b>similar tastes</b> 相同的口味/喜好相同
<b>clubbing</b> 蹦迪	<b>observations</b> 观察
<b>indispensable</b> 离不开的	<b>overnight</b> 过夜
<b>discos</b> 迪斯科舞	