

BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

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Expensive Underground? 伦敦地铁世界最贵?

Wang Fei: 大家好, 欢迎收听 **BBC Learning English** 的英国问答节目。Ask about Britain. 今天我的搭档是 William... 不过, 人呢? William? William...

William: (Coming inside the studio.) Hi... Wang Fei. Sorry I'm late. But I've got a good excuse. I forgot to take my Oyster Card this morning and I had to go back home for it. It took me an extra half hour.

Wang Fei: Oh! William forgot his Oyster Card. This is actually a very good reason for being late. 听众朋友, 这个 Oyster Card 就是伦敦人日常使用的公共交通卡。没有它, 公交车票就会非常贵。所以我很体谅 William. Well, in fact today's question has something to do with your Oyster Card. 今天的问题来自天津的一位叫做 Joey 的朋友。

William: So what's our question? Shall we have a listen to it?

Wang Fei: Yes. Please.

Insert

My name is Joey. I take the subway to work every day. It's fast and punctual. But it is a little expensive. So I'm wondering if it is the same situation in Britain? Thank you very much.

Wang Fei: 首先非常感谢 Joey 的问题。他说他每天乘坐地铁上班, 但是觉得地铁票有点贵, 所以他想知道英国地铁的情况。

William: But before we go to the answer, we should point out that in London we don't say the word subway to mean underground train system. We say the London Underground or the Tube.

Wang Fei: William 提醒大家。Subway 是美国人对“地铁”的称呼, 但是, 在英国你如果说 subway, 人们可能会觉得你是在说“地下通道”而不是指“地铁”。因为英国人一般用 "underground" 或者另外一个非常生动的绰号 the Tube, T.U.B.E. “管子”这个词来表示地铁。地铁在管子般的隧道里穿行, 真的很形

象。如果我们用英语说伦敦地铁，London Underground 就比较正式，而 the Tube 就很口语化。

William: Wang Fei, what do you think of the Tube in London?

Wang Fei: Just like Joey, I commute to work on the Tube every day. But I think Tube fares are quite expensive.

William: Well Wang Fei, that's your opinion. But let's find out what others think about the Tube and Tube fares.

Insert

A: *I use the London Tube every day, usually to go to work. I think the Tube fares are a little bit expensive considering especially if you are travelling in the rush hour.*

B: *I think the prices are very high, but I think the service is very good, by and large, but I think the prices are far too high.*

C: *Yeah, I use the London underground every day. I think the fares are quite expensive for what they are.*

D: *Every day! (Every day you use the Tube. So what do you think of the prices?) It is rather expensive, isn't it? Too expensive. We should be promoting public transport.*

E: *In my city Paris, it is less expensive, but it's London. In London everything is expensive.*

Wang Fei: 从我们的街头采访来看，大部分人还是觉得伦敦的地铁很贵。

William: Yes. Most people think that fares are expensive. A lady said in her interview "it is expensive especially in rush hour". I think we'd better tell the listeners what rush hour is...

Wang Fei: Rush hour 就是交通高峰时间的意思。在伦敦的 rush hour 乘坐地铁的时候，地铁票价就比非高峰时间贵。非高峰时间呢，英语就是 off peak.

William: When talking about London Tube fares, people also used different expressions: "a little bit expensive".

Wang Fei: A little bit expensive 有一点点贵。

William: Rather expensive.

Wang Fei: Rather expensive 就是“相当贵”。

- William:** Far too high.
- Wang Fei:** 价格高得离谱。
- William:** I thought it was interesting that the French interviewee at the end of that clip said "the London Tube price is more expensive than Paris. But this is London. Everything is expensive in London."
- Wang Fei:** 这位法国朋友说，伦敦就是一座昂贵的城市，地铁票价高，好像也是天经地义。
- William:** London is expensive, but not everything is expensive. So hopefully we've helped you learn some different ways of saying that something is expensive.
- Wang Fei:** 都说伦敦的地铁票价很高。那到底有多高呢？
- William:** In central London, the cheapest single trip fare is £1.80.
- Wang Fei:** 在伦敦，地铁是按照行程长短和跨越的区域收费的。William 说 "In central London, the cheapest single trip fare is £1.80." 在伦敦的市中心，也就是人们常说的伦敦一区，乘坐一次地铁最便宜的票价，也要 1.8 英镑。也就是大约19块钱人民币。这样算来，伦敦的地铁真的是太贵了。像我这样的上班族，每个月光花在公共交通上的钱就要120镑左右，也就是1250块人民币。我曾在 **Guardian** 也就是《英国卫报》上读到一篇新闻说 "London's public transport was declared the most expensive in the world." 声称伦敦地铁票价全世界最贵。那伦敦的人们如何来降低在公交方面的支出呢？
- William:** The best way is to have an Oyster Card. Look! This is my Oyster Card.
- Wang Fei:** 我们又回到了节目刚开始说的 **Oyster Card** 了。**Oyster**, 就是“牡蛎”的意思。这真是一个非常可爱的名字。当然 **Oyster** 卡也是非常好用的。用它你可以乘坐地铁、公共汽车等多种公共交通工具。
- William:** Yes. You should always carry it because by using your Oyster Card, fares are generally cheaper than with cash.
- Wang Fei:** 使用 **Oyster Card**, 关键还能享受各种优惠。今天早上 **William** 忘了带他的 **Oyster Card**. 气喘吁吁地跑回家，结果差点耽误了上班。可见在伦敦生活，没有这张卡是多么不方便。

- Wang Fei:** William, why *are* London's tube fares so expensive?
- William:** Well one obvious reason is that London's tube system has a history of more than 100 years. A lot of maintenance work needs to be done and it takes a lot of money.
- Wang Fei:** William 解释说, 伦敦的地铁系统已经有 100 多年的历史了。需要很多的 **maintenance work** 也就是维护工作。这当然需要很多的钱。
- William:** OK, the tube *is* expensive, but tourists can always walk around London. Central London isn't that big, is it?
- Wang Fei:** William 说的很对。伦敦的中心城区并不大, 所以, 对于游客来说, 很多地方基本上都可以步行到达。地铁虽然贵, 但是四通八达, 非常方便, 也远远没有北京的地铁那么拥挤, 还是比较舒服的。所以你来伦敦, 一定要记得体验一下世界上最昂贵的地铁。
- William:** I hope you'll enjoy it. And remember to buy an Oyster Card as soon as you arrive in London.
- Wang Fei:** Definitely. And remember to take it with you all the time. I mean *you*, William.
- William:** Come on... Goodbye everyone.
- Wang Fei:** Bye.