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关于台词的备注:

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Chinese Accent 2 / 中国人的英语口语音: 语流篇

Insert

(Wang Fei reads after his English teacher)

123...

*Question and Answer of the Week:
People say that Chinese learners of English
are more likely to speak English
with a Chinese accent.
I would like to find out
what these specific syllables are...*

Alice: Welcome to Question and Answer of the Week. I'm Alice Castle. Today we continue to answer Clare's question about Chinese learners' English accents. But Wang Fei is still practising his pronunciation with his English trainer. He's been working hard to see if there're any improvements he can make on his accent.

Wang Fei: (Opens the door) Hello! Hello Alice.

Alice: Oh, hi there.

Wang Fei: Hello. 大家好, 我是王飞。I've just finished my class.

Alice: Good timing! How is it going?

Wang Fei: It's very good. I've found out about a few pronunciation problems I had neglected before.

Alice: Good. What are they?

Wang Fei: My English trainer noticed that I sometimes drop some sounds while I am speaking quickly. 我的英文老师说, 我说英语快的时候, 就会吞掉一些音。

Alice: Oh. When I was in China I sometimes noticed that Chinese learners of English drop some sounds when they are speaking. For example, 'media coverage', they might say 'media covrage' or 'media courage'.

Wang Fei: Exactly. This is also my problem. Let's hear from Frances Cox. She is my English language trainer working for the BBC World Service.



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Frances: I'll give you one example. When somebody is learning English, what's the word we might use for that, beginning with s? We could say they are...?

Wang Fei: Studying.

Frances: OK, now I say studying.

Wang Fei: Studying.

Frances: In the middle there's an 'i' sound. So it's like: studying.

Wang Fei: Studying.

Frances: And another one I think you sometimes make is 'understanding'.

Wang Fei: Understanding.

Frances: Understanding.

Wang Fei: Understanding.

Frances: Good, OK.

Wang Fei: Sometimes I drop the 'er' – under.

Alice: Frances pointed out two words Wang Fei needs to pay attention to. One is 'studying'. People sometimes drop an 'i' while they're speaking.

Wang Fei: 是的。我以前会读成 **studding**。听起来好像区别很小，但是意思完全不一样了。

Alice: Another example is 'understanding'. Some people drop the 'er' sound in the word, so it sounds like 'undstanding'.

Wang Fei: 是这样的。英语的单词很多都是多音节的，所以我们中国的英语学习者要注意英语发音的这种细微差别，在说英语的时候，不要把一些音或者音节吞掉了。

Alice: Interestingly enough, Jim Hitch, an experienced English teacher in London, found that many of his Chinese students often add some extra sounds into the words. Let's hear what he says.

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In English we have what we call 'consonant clusters'. So we have groups of consonants that come together; whereas in many languages a syllable is based on a consonant-vowel pair sound, whereas we have all these sounds together. So, for example: 'crisps'. Now saying the s-p-s at the end, crisps, is very difficult for a Chinese learner, as it is, again, for a Spanish person and many others. I think they would say something like 'cris-pe-s', they would add an extra vowel in there. And it's the same with a simple word like 'spoon'. At the beginning we have a 's-p' and a Chinese learner would be much more



likely to say 'ser-poon', because they would put an extra sound between the s and the p, as an extra syllable.

Alice: Jim mentioned a very interesting term in his interview, consonant clusters.

Wang Fei: Consonant clusters 辅音群，就是两个或者三个以上的辅音连在一起。

Alice: Consonant clusters are very common in English but not in Chinese. Chinese is based on consonant-vowel pair sounds.

Wang Fei: 汉语中没有辅音群。我们汉语中都是辅音和元音成对儿出现的。

Alice: So some Chinese learners tend to add vowel sounds, especially 'er' between consonants. For example, 'crisps' in English might become 'c-er-ris-er-pers'.

Wang Fei: 是的。因为在汉语中没有 k 和 ker 的区别，所以很多中国人听不出来在辅音中添加了 er 的音。所以就出现了很多中国人讲英语的口音问题。下面 Alice 读正确的发音，我读添加了 er 的发音，看看你能不能听出区别来。

Alice: Spoon.

Wang Fei: Serpoon.

Alice: Britain.

Wang Fei: Britern.

Alice: Cream.

Wang Fei: Kerream 希望大家能够听出它们的不同来。

Alice: Welcome back to our programme. Wang Fei, what time did you get up this morning?

Wang Fei: I got up at eight. What about you?

Alice: I got up at eight. Did you notice the difference between your answer and mine?

Wang Fei: Not much difference!

Alice: There are some differences. Let's hear from Jim Hitch again; he'll explain how sounds in English connect together.

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For example, 'I get up at 8': I don't say, "I – get – up – at 8", which is maybe what a Chinese learner would say. I say, "I get up at 8", which sounds like one long word and if you want to imagine it, I always say to my clients, well imagine an animal called an 'Igetupateight'. A little animal that sits in the corner called an 'Igetupateight'. If you think



of it like that, it's a phrase, rather than a group of separate words. (They're all connected.) All connected and the way they're connected is actually very simple, in a way.

Wang Fei: I get up at eight. 这是一个典型的英语连读。中国学生都知道连读的概念，但是当
我们读起来的时候，还是喜欢和读汉语一样，一个一个地读，字正腔圆。I get up
at eight. Alice, what do you think if I speak like this?

Alice: It's nice and clear. I can understand it. But if you want to sound more
natural think of it as a whole unit. Jim gave a piece of good advice. Just
imagine an animal called 'getupateight', 'getupateight'. It's very strange
but just repeat the sound and forget about each of the separate words.

Wang Fei: 对。在练习连读的时候，不要总是想着它们是一个个不同的单词，而是把它们看作是连
接在一起的音，就把 **getupateight** 当作一只动物的名字好了。下面 **Alice** 读英国人
连读的发音，我一个单词一个单词地读。你可以仔细体会其中的差别。

Alice: Worked-until-eight.

Wang Fei: Worked until eight.

Alice: Slept-in-a-chair.

Wang Fei: Slept in a chair.

Alice: Get-on-a-bus.

Wang Fei: Get on a bus.

Alice: Once you hear the difference and repeat the sound again and again, you
will get used to the sound linkage in English.

Wang Fei: Welcome back. Alice, what other problems have you noticed besides
dropping sounds, adding sounds and word linkages we discussed just now?

Alice: Another important aspect we are going to discuss is rhythm. I think when
Chinese learners are speaking they tend to speak in a different rhythm.

Wang Fei: Rhythm 节奏。中国人读英语的节奏和英国人有什么不同呢？我们一起来听听 **Liz
Chiu** 伦敦帝国理工大学的英语教师的采访。

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*"It's not as easy as I thought it would be". This is an example that I often ask my
students to say, "It's not as easy as I thought it would be". And you can hear very strong
syllables on 'easy' and 'thought' but very weak syllables through the rest of the sentence.
Generally a Chinese speaker is going to say, "It's – not – as – easy - as – I – thought – it
– would – be". It really sounds very different for us, if you don't put the words together
in groups and you don't have the strong and weak syllables. So my advice – sing some
songs, singing is really good to improve rhythm.*



Alice: Liz noticed that some Chinese students don't pay attention to the strong syllables and weak syllables in English and they don't connect them together. It might sound like "It's – not – as – easy – as – I – thought – it – would – be", instead of "It's not as easy as I thought it would be".

Wang Fei: 是这样的。英语句子里很多音节是需要弱读的。比如说句子里的 **it would**, 英国人会读得很轻, 后边的 't' 和 'd' 听起来像没有了一样。但是中国人喜欢把每个音都读得比较重, 所以听起来就比较别扭了。

Alice: Liz gives a very good suggestion: sing some English songs.

Wang Fei: It's a very good idea. 所以如果你想让你的英语节奏流畅, 那就多练习唱英文歌曲吧。希望我们今天的节目对大家的英语口语的提高有所帮助, 在下次节目中, 我们仍会请一些英语语言方面的专家和大家探讨中国人的英语口语问题。

Alice: I hope to see you next time. Bye bye.

Wang Fei: Bye!

