### BBC Learning English - Q & A of the Week 你问我答

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# American English Words: Home 美国英语词语: 家居

## **Insert**

Hi BBC, I like your Question and Answer programme. I have a question too; Americans use different words from the British such as eggplant and aubergine, or fall and autumn. Could you make a summary? Thanks.

# Simon from Nanjing

Yang Li:

大家好我是杨莉,今天我将继续回答 Simon 的问题。介绍美式英语和英式英语中的一些不同的用词。前两辑我们谈了农和食,这一辑我们来谈谈住。Today we'll take a look at items around the house. My guest speaker is Yvonne Archer. She used to live in the States but now lives in the UK. So where does she live and how convenient is her location? Listen and see if you can pick up the American English words she uses.

#### **Insert**

Okay. I have an apartment rather than a condo, condominium in north London, because it's in a house. So I'm in the ground floor apartment and I get to keep the front yard which has a few flowers in it. And I also have my bedroom next to the back yard so I can hear the birds singing and the squirrels playing, I can see them all, so that's cute. I think I have a pretty good zip code really because I am just a hop and a skip away from downtown, so it doesn't take me long to get down there.

Yang Li: Yvonn

Yvonne 说她住在北伦敦一所洋房内的小公寓,距离市中心不远所以很方便。I'd like to draw your attention to some words that she used: apartment, yard, zip code and downtown. When you translate them into British English they become flats, garden, post code and city centre. 另一个短语是 a hop and skip away 距离市中心只有几步路。Next she describes the inside of her flat.

#### Insert

I have a tiny silver mail box and the postman drops all my mail in there and I'm quite attached to it because my dad he put it there for me so it's quite cute.

Yang Li: 美国英语把信箱,邮箱称为 mail box. In British English it is letter box.



### **Insert**

The other thing is my bathroom is so tiny. It's compact, you know it's bijou. So it's a miniature size bath so it's a good thing that I am under 5'4" so it's a small tub and I like to take a nice deep warm bubble bath because in the fall and the spring I still find that it is quite cool here so it warms me up. Yeah in the bathroom I love to have everything white. All my linens are white, white towels, white bathrobe, white bath mats and white suite and everything is white in there.

Yang Li: Wow, everything is white! Nice and clean. But did you catch the word tub? What is a tub? 浴盆,澡盆。Well that would be 'bath' in British English. She also refers to 秋天 as fall, 英式英语则是 autumn. I wonder which word you would normally use, well I tend to use fall when I am in America and autumn in Britain as the saying goes, do as the Romans do. 下面我们听一听Yvonne 的厨房有何特点。

## **Insert**

Let's skip around to my kitchen, my kitchenette because it's that tiny, it's like a kitchen recess. It's so small that you can't even put a garbage can in there. So I have to be real creative about my apartment.

Yang Li: Yvonne's kitchen is tiny 小厨房 kitchenette. It's so small that she can't fit a garbage can in there. Garbage can 垃圾箱, 英国人使用另一个词 rubbish bin 垃圾箱。Next Yvonne showed me a picture of her bedroom.

### Insert

I used to have a blue wall right here but I decided to paint it out so it's all white and cream and really calm and relaxing and wood. I have nice colour woods in here and this is my favourite piece, this one, this is my nightstand it's tiny, and it's a funny shape it's supposed to be a chick, a little chicken, my grandfather actually made it for me before he died so that's real special for me.

This is my new comforter set I don't know if you like it but it's satin, yeah sure, it feels a bit luxurious for me.

Yang Li: Yvonne's favourite piece is a handmade nightstand. 这个词的意思是床头柜 nightstand. Do British people use this word? No, they would say bedside table instead. 英国人称床头柜 bedside table. How about the phrase 'comforter set'? 成套的床上用品。 In British English it is called quilt set. Well now let's have a recap of the American English words we have covered.

院子、花园 yard - garden

公寓 apartment – flat

邮政编码 zip code – post code

市中心 downtown - city centre



信箱 mail box – letter box

垃圾箱 garbage can - rubbish bin

浴缸、澡盆 tub - bath

秋天 fall - autumn

床头桌、床头柜 nightstand – bedside table

成套的床上用品 comforter set – quilt set

Yang Li: Well done everyone, good effort. Hope you have enjoyed it. 衣食住行我们已经谈了三个,下期节目我们将探讨的是户外活动。Well if you have a question just drop us an email to <a href="mailto:questions.elt@bbc.co.uk">questions.elt@bbc.co.uk</a>. 谢谢收听。我是杨莉,我们下次节目再会。

