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

About this script

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Homophones 同音词

Yang Li: 大家好,欢迎收听本周的《你问我答》节目,我是杨莉。

Natalie: And my name is Natalie.

Yang Li: 今天的问题来自郑州的 Ben. 他希望我们能讲解一下英语的同音词,也就是说两个词

的拼写不同, 意思也不同但是发音却一模一样。比如说 pair P.A.I.R 和 pear

P.E.A.R. Is there a name for these types of words, Natalie?

Natalie: Yes Li, these words are called homophones.

Yang Li: But how can we distinguish between these words?

Natalie: Well there's not exactly a rule, you just have to learn the different words

and the contexts that they're used in.

Yang Li: So it is all about practice!

Natalie: Yes as always, it is all about practice! Now let's listen to Dan. See how

many different homophones you can hear.

Example

I hate the weather in Britain! You don't know what to wear! You never know whether to bring a coat or your sunglasses.

One minute the sun is shining, the next it starts to rain! I wonder where the rain comes from sometimes!

Yang Li: I agree the weather is very unpredictable in the UK!

Natalie: Ah yes the infamous British weather. So did you hear the different

homophones? How many did you get?

Yang Li: 我听到了两组同音词,第一对是 weather W.E.A.T.H.E.R 还有 whether

W.H.E.T.H.E.R.

Example

I hate the weather in Britain! You never know whether to bring a coat or you sunglasses.



Natalie: Did you also hear wear W.E.A.R and where W.H.E.R.E?

Example

You don't know what to wear!

I wonder where the rain comes from sometimes!

Natalie: Homophones are important in written English and are also something that

native English speakers learn at school. Often we have difficulty deciding

which word to use as well!

Yang Li: 看来大家不必太苛求自己了,因为 Natalie 说就连英国人自己有时都是把同音词搞,

何况外国人呢!

Natalie: An important thing to point out about homophones in spoken English is

that they can differ between accents.

Yang Li: Hmmm...that's a good point. 需要说明的是 Homophones 和口音可不是一回。

Natalie: For example I speak in a Northern Irish accent, and in my accent the words

pull P.U.L.L. and pool P.O.O.L are homophones, but in an English accent

these words are not homophones.

Yang Li: Natalie 讲话是爱尔兰口音,她说他们把拉拽和水池这两个词总混在一起。拉拽是

pull P.U.L.L. 而水池是 pool P.O.O.L., 也就是说对于爱尔兰人来说 pull 和 pool 就是同音词,但是对英格兰人来说就不是。请听 Natalie 和 Dan 的发音有什么不。

Example

A: pull and pool B: pull and pool

Yang Li: 听出来了吗? Natalie 在读这两个词的时候没有什么区别,但是 Dan 的发音就体现

出两个词的不同发音, 我们再听一遍。

Example

A: pull and pool B: pull and pool

Yang Li: 由此看来确定同音词的时候还要看口音,比如英格兰南方和北方,英格兰和爱尔兰或苏

格兰各地的口音都不同,因此都有各自的口音。 By the way Natalie, what's the difference between a homophone and a homonym? Because they are very

confusing.

Natalie: Yeah that's a really good point Li. A homonym refers to a word that has

two meanings but the word is spelt the same. For example the word ruler

R.U.L.E.R.



Yang Li: Right; Natalie 说 homonym 意思就是拼写一样但是意思不一样的同形异意词,比

如说 ruler, 这个词在英语中即可以指尺,量东西的尺,也指统治者,都是 ruler.

Natalie: And quite often homonyms are used in jokes!

Yang Li: 是的,人们在说笑话的时候经常使用同形异意词 homonyms!

Natalie: As they allow a play on words.

Yang Li: A play on words 就像我们的象声演员一样玩儿文字游戏。 Have you got a joke

Natalie?

Natalie: Actually I do! OK. So why did the King draw straight lines?

Yang Li: I don't know.

Natalie: Because he was the ruler! Get it? Ruler... ruler...?

Yang Li: Yeah, but that wasn't really funny... 还是让我把我们的网址给大家念一下吧:

www.bbcukchina.com 那里可是有数百个节目供大家免费收听和下载! And I

promise Natalie doesn't have any more jokes on the website!

Natalie: Li what about this one...

Yang Li: Better go, bye!

Natalie: No honestly Li this joke's really good... come back!

