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关于台词的备注:

请注意这不是广播节目的逐字稿件。本文稿可能没有体现录制、编辑过程中对节目做出的改变。

To and For 两个介词的区别

Wang Fei: Hello and welcome to Question and Answer of the Week. 我是王飞。

William: Hello, I'm William.

Wang Fei: 我们今天的问题是关于两个介词: **to** 和 **for**. 这两个词虽然看似简单, 但是有时候会非常难区分。我们先来听一下问题。

Insert

Hello. My name is Supermother. I want to ask the difference between 'to' and 'for'.

For example: Water is important to us. Water is important for China.

I want to know what the difference is between the two sentences. Thank you.

Wang Fei: 我们的听友名字叫 Supermother.

William: It's a funny name but maybe she really is a supermother.

Wang Fei: Probably she is. 我们的听友 Supermother 想知道介词 **to** 和 **for** 在下面两个句子中的区别。Water is important to us. Water is important for China. William, they are both correct sentences, aren't they?

William: Yes, they are both grammatically correct.

Wang Fei: But there is a difference then?

William: Well yes, but it's difficult to explain. If we put the two sentences into different contexts, you will see the difference more easily.

Wang Fei: Context 语境、上下文, 你要把这两个句子放在不同的上下文中, 就知道它们的不同了。

William: Imagine a little boy is running the tap and his mum says to him 'Turn the tap off. Water is important to us.'

Wang Fei: 在这个情况下, 小孩子浪费水的时候, 妈妈说 '关上水龙头。Water is important to us.'

William: Now imagine a classroom. A science teacher is talking about the natural resources of the earth and he says '70% of the Earth's surface is covered by water and water is very important for China and for the world.'

Wang Fei: 在这个情况下，老师讲课时说“地球表面 70%被水覆盖，'water is important for China and for the world.'"

William: When the boy's mother says 'Water is important to us' that is a personal opinion, a subjective opinion. But when the teacher says 'Water is important for China' that's more like a fact; it's much more objective.

Wang Fei: 我明白了。To us 是一种与说话人切身利益有关的，很主观的看法。而 for us 则更多的是概念性的，客观的事实。我们来听更多的例子。

Insert

A: What about buying some nice ice cream for dinner?

B: Yes. That sounds like a great idea to me.

C: No. Too much ice cream is bad for your health. We should have some proper food.

William: It sounds like a good idea to me. Here again, 'to' is very personal, it's subjective.

Wang Fei: It sounds like a good idea to me, 是说话人的观点，与说话人利益有关。

William: Too much ice cream is bad for your health. Here 'for' indicates a fact. It's quite objective.

Wang Fei: Too much ice cream is bad for your health. 吃太多冰激凌对身体不好，是一个事实，比较客观，所以要用 for.

William: Ok, are those the only examples we're going to look at today?

Wang Fei: No, no! I still have one more question for you. Here, why don't we say I have one more question to you? Are they both correct?

William: This is also about 'to' and 'for'. But in this context, 'I have one question to you' is wrong.

Wang Fei: Why? 我们平时不也说 'I wrote a letter to you.' 'He gave that book to me'?

William: 'For' here indicates the final intended recipient of something and perhaps suggests the purpose for doing something. So 'I have a question for you'; here, you are asking me this question because you want me to answer it. However, 'to' doesn't have exactly that meaning. 'To' only indicates an action of passing something from a giver to a receiver.

Wang Fei: 我明白了。For 和 to 虽然都有方向性，但是 for 是有一种目的和原因在里面，是专门为接受者做的，或者让接受者拥有的东西。但是 'to' 就很简单，只是简单的一个传递动作过程。

William: Let's hear some more examples.



Insert

A: Today is Mary's birthday. I've prepared a small gift for her.

B: I've also got a birthday card for her. What time are we going to give the gifts to her?

William: These examples show us why having these different words to and for is sometimes quite useful – but I know it can be quite confusing too.

Wang Fei: That's right. And there are many other usages of 'to' and 'for' that are difficult to me.

William: Ah, you mean 'difficult FOR me' Wang Fei!!

Wang Fei: Sorry, it should be it's difficult FOR me! Yes.

William: Unfortunately, we can't discuss all of those tricky examples because this will be a very long programme for our listeners.

Wang Fei: 是的，听众朋友，介词 'to' 和 'for' 的用法实在太多了，我们讲一天也讲不完。如果你能巩固好今天的这几个例子，你对 **to** 和 **for** 的用法就会了解更多了。

William: Yes. And remember we are always here for you. If there is anything you're not clear about just write to us. Bye for now!

Wang Fei: Bye.

