

BBC Learning English – Q & A of the Week 122

About this script

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Surfing 网上冲浪

Feifei: 大家好，欢迎收听《你问我答》节目。我是冯菲菲。

COMPUTER KEYBOARD FX

Feifei: ...Mmm, Rob, aren't you going to say hello?

Rob: Oh sorry. I'm just online, trying to find a question to answer today.

Feifei: You're too late. I've already got a question for us. Do you want to hear it?

Rob: Oh, OK.

Insert

I want to ask about the use of the word online in daily conversation. For example, how do I differentiate between online and surfing?

From Yan DING, Beijing

Feifei: 来自北京的网友 Ding Yan 想知道单词 online 的用法，尤其是 online 和单词 surfing 的区别。

WAVE CRASH FX

Rob: (shouting out) Well we all know about surfing. Like this. Riding the crest of the wave on a surf board. But it's quite tricky...

Feifei: Rob! Come down. It's not that type of surfing. Ding Yan 说的这个 surfing 是和电脑网络有关的。We're talking about computers.

Rob: I knew that! It's just when I was online earlier it said surfing was a good sport to try.

Feifei: So you were online. You were on the computer.

Rob: I was. But by being online I meant my computer was connected to the internet.



- Feifei:** 如果你的电脑联上了英特网, 那么你的状态就是 **online**. So if you're not connected then you are offline?
- Rob:** That's right. Technically speaking, online means connected to a computer network like the World Wide Web.
- Feifei:** Online 就是在网上。 World Wide Web 就是万维网, That's www for short!
- Rob:** You're so smart! Let's hear an example.

Insert

I'll book some cinema tickets online shall I? Then we won't have to queue at the box office and we can guarantee a seat.

- Feifei:** 上面这位男士说他准备在网上订几张电影票, 因为这样更方便。Booking online is a convenient thing to do.
- Rob:** It is. When people say they'll do something online, it means they'll do it via a website on a computer. Shopping online is becoming very popular now.
- Feifei:** I know, there are so many websites to look at! 网上购物现在十分流行, 网店也有无数。
- Rob:** Millions! That's why we have to go surfing.
- Feifei:** Surfing 网上冲浪? Isn't surfing the same as going online?
- Rob:** No but you do need to be online to surf. The verb, to surf, means to spend time visiting a lot of websites.
- Feifei:** Well, I certainly do lots of surfing! To surf the internet 意思就是浏览多个网站, 俗称网上冲浪。Not just one then?
- Rob:** That's right. Just like in this example.

Insert

I've spent the whole morning online, surfing the net to find the best price for some plane tickets to Shanghai. But I've only managed to save 10 Yuan!

- Feifei:** 上面的男士说他一上午都在网上浏览 surfing the net 想找便宜的机票去上海。He hasn't had much luck!
- Rob:** Surfing the net – that's short for the internet - can be fun but it can also be a big time waster.
- Feifei:** 浏览网站很费时间。Not like the other kind of surfing, hey Rob?
- Rob:** No Feifei. Surfing on my surfboard is great fun, you should give it a try.
- Feifei:** I don't like getting wet. Maybe I'll just go online and check out some photos of you doing it.

Rob: That's the great thing about the internet.

Feifei: It is. 希望 Ding Yan 对我们的回答还满意。如果你在英语学习过程中遇到任何难题, 欢迎发邮件给我们到 questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk

Rob: And if you want to try some surfing, have a look at all our English teaching programmes on our website at bbcukchina.com. Right, I'm off to catch some waves. Bye!

Feifei: 他就是想秀一下他的冲浪技术! 好了, 我们下次节目再会。