

## BBC Learning English – Q & A of the Week 123

### About this script

Please note that this is not a word for word transcript of the programme as broadcast. In the recording and editing process changes may have been made which may not be reflected here.

### 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。

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### Expecting and Waiting 期待和等待的区别

**Feifei:** Hello. 大家好! 欢迎收听《你问我答》节目。我是冯菲菲, 我在等 Rob 的到来。

#### DOOR OPENS FX

**Rob:** Sorry I'm late. I've been waiting for the bus but it never showed up!

**Feifei:** Well now you're here let's waste no time and get on with today's question which is from Shan in Hong Kong. He's waiting for a reply.

**Rob:** Oh sorry. Let's have a listen.

#### Insert

*Hello. I want to ask a question about the difference between "Expect" and "Wait", as I heard some people say "I'm **expecting** someone" and I wonder why they don't say "I'm **waiting for** someone". I'm looking forward to hearing from you.*

*Yours faithfully, Shan in Hong Kong.*

**Feifei:** 来自香港的网友 Shan 的问题是关于两个意思非常相近的单词 expect 和 wait. 比如说 I'm expecting someone 和 I'm waiting for someone. So Rob, there are two ways to say the same thing, right?

**Rob:** Wrong! They are similar but there are subtle differences.

**Feifei:** Waiting and expecting 在这里的意思相近, 但还是有微小区别的 subtle difference.

**Rob:** I expect you want me to explain?!

**Feifei:** We're all waiting Rob.

**Rob:** Well, when you say you're waiting, you're implying time is passing until something happens. You can wait, or are waiting when somebody or something is late.

**Feifei:** Like your bus. 等车的时候时间一秒一秒过去。如果公车或者一个人晚了、迟到了, 那么你就在 wait 等待。



**Rob:** Here's an example...

**Insert**

*It's been two weeks and I'm still waiting for Feifei to pay me back that money!*

**Feifei:** 上面的这位说他还在等我给他还钱呢。当然这只是个例子，我可从来不欠人钱。 So he's waiting for someone to do something.

**Rob:** That's it. The verb is to wait and he's having to wait for someone to do something for something to happen.

**Feifei:** 他需要等待或是正在等待，将要发生的一件事情或是某人来做某事儿。 So Rob, if you say you are waiting for a bus, it implies it will turn up eventually.

**Rob:** Exactly! And finally, waiting is often a physical thing. We often stand or sit somewhere until something happens.

**Feifei:** That's true. 我们通常是站着、坐着或是徘徊着等待一件事情发生，或某人出现。

**Rob:** Listen to this.

**Insert**

*Sorry, I'm late. I'm waiting at the bus stop for the number 43 bus. It should have been here an hour ago!*

**Feifei:** 像 Rob 一样，他也在等一辆本应该早就到站得公车。

**Rob:** What is it about buses?! But he's still expecting the bus to turn up.

**Feifei:** 他知道公车肯定会来，所以他在等。

**Rob:** If you are expecting something to happen, you have a good reason to think it will and at a certain time.

**Feifei:** Well Rob, I'm expecting you to give us an example.

**Rob:** Well, wait no longer...

**Insert**

*I'm expecting a bus to be here at half past three.*

**Feifei:** 他在等一辆到时间就会到来的公车。 Expecting 这里的意思是他知道公车会在一个具体的时间来到这个站。 How is expecting something different from hoping?

**Rob:** Well when you are hoping for something to happen you may want it to happen but there's still a chance it might not.

**Insert**

*Is there a bus coming soon?*

*Yeah, I'm hoping there'll be a bus due very soon. If not I've got a long walk home.*



- Feifei:** 他希望公车能快点儿来。He's hoping but it might not.
- Rob:** Yes, there's some uncertainty. That's different from expecting, that's when you are assuming the bus will turn up.
- Feifei:** 当我们 expect 期待某事的时候, 我们确定这件事情会发生; 而 hope 表示不确定性。So that's three ways to describe a situation; waiting for it, expecting it or hoping for it.
- Rob:** Here are some other ways you can use the word expect. I am expecting to win the race.
- Feifei:** 我觉得能赢得比赛。
- Rob:** I am expecting to be there at ten o'clock.
- Feifei:** 我预计 10 点到。
- Rob:** I am expecting you to buy me dinner....mmm, Feifei I was expecting you to say that in Chinese!
- Feifei:** You'll have to keep waiting. I'm not buying you dinner! 注意你也可以期待一个不总是会发生的事情。
- Rob:** Well, hopefully we have helped to explain Shan's question. Don't forget we would love to hear more of you questions.
- Feifei:** 如果你在英语学习中遇到任何问题, 欢迎发邮件给我们到 [questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk](mailto:questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk)
- Rob:** We expect to hear from you soon.
- Feifei:** Don't keep us waiting! Bye.
- BUS FX**
- Rob:** And there's my bus. Bye, see you soon.