

BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

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Family Doctors 家庭医生

William: (Eating an apple) Mmm... delicious! An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

Yang Li: Hi, you're lucky William. Look at you. Fit and healthy. But unfortunately not everyone can keep the doctor away. Doctors in this country are rather busy in fact.

William: Yes in Ask About Britain today we'll answer a question from Gao Yuanxue about family doctors. I'm William Kremer.

Yang Li: 大家好我是杨莉。今天的《英国问答》节目我们采访了一位医生，以便回答高原雪提出的下列问题：

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How do British people see the doctor? I hear that many foreigners have their own family doctors, and I wonder whether it's general for every family in Britain.

Yang Li: I think I know why Gao Yuanxue asked this question, because in China people normally go to the hospital if they are sick. But this is not the same here in the UK, is it William?

William: No. We usually go to see our family doctor first unless it's an emergency. Family doctors are usually called GPs, or general practitioners.

Yang Li: 这是日常会话中经常会碰到了一个所写词 GPs 家庭医生。下面我们采访了一位家庭医生 Dr Brassy.

William: To test how good your listening is we'll ask you one question before each clip. Here's the first one. How many patients does his clinic look after?

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My name is Louis Brassy. I'm a so-called general practitioner doctor in the centre of London. I'm one of two doctors working in our clinic and between us we have, let's say, 3,500 patients.

William: Did you get it? How many patients does Dr Brassy's clinic have?

Yang Li: 3,500? Yes 3,500 patients to look after between two GPs. Patients 病人。Clinic 诊所, 医务室。

William: As we hear from Dr Brassy next, the system recommends that every patient in England is registered with a GP.

Yang Li: To register 就是登记。Now the question for this clip is where do people register with a family doctor?

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England still has a system which it's had, really, since the Second World War. Where theoretically every patient in England is registered with one family doctor, almost always near where they live. If they're ever sick, if any of the family are sick, they go directly, initially to the family doctor, unless it's an emergency, who most cases, I think 80% of cases he can sort out by himself. And about 20% of cases, if they need to see a specialist, he will send them on to whichever speciality is most appropriate.

Yang Li: So where do people register with a family doctor?

William: Almost always near where they live, which makes sense as then you don't need to travel miles to see a doctor.

Yang Li: Yeah that's very convenient. GPs are qualified at a basic level to deal with most illnesses. But what happens if the patient has a major problem?

William: Simple. The GP refers the patient to a specialist in the hospital.

Yang Li: 英国的家庭医生都受过综合培训并拥有高等医学文凭, 因此他们能处理绝大部分的病例。碰到疑难病症家庭医生会把病人介绍到专科医院去检查和治疗 refer the patient to a specialist in the hospital. Qualified 有资格的, specialist 专家 sort out 处理, 解决。

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Rather than approaching a specialist directly, anybody who is sick under normal circumstances will go and see his general practitioner who is qualified at a basic level in all sorts of different illnesses and can provide primary care.

William: In BBC Learning English today we have been hearing from Dr Brassy about family doctors in the UK.

Yang Li: I think people may wonder what advantages the UK system has. Here is Dr Brassy again.

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First of all people tend to be registered with their GPs for a long period of time, so after a few years you tend to know the whole family, you tend to know each patient and the context in which they are turning up. You tend to have all the records to hand, you tend to know what illnesses they've had, what it's likely to be and what's in the family generally; which sometimes helps you, rather than somebody who would just turn up to a doctor they've never seen before.

William: Dr Brassy says there are a lot of advantages to being registered with one GP for a long time.

Yang Li: Advantages 就是好处, 优点。首先由于注册时间长, 医生对自己的病人很了解, 包括每个家庭成员以及他们为何来看病。

William: You tend to know the whole family, the patient and the context in which they are turning up.

Yang Li: 再有就是固定的家庭诊所里随时可以调出病人的病例档案。

William: They also have the patients' past records. It makes it easier to diagnose the problem.

Yang Li: Diagnose 诊断。The final question is do people pay to see their family doctors? 病人需要花钱挂号吗? Listen to Dr Brassy for the answer.

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No money is exchanged when you go to see a doctor in this country. We never ask for money for general medical services. The government pays us to look after patients using a kind of complex formula; a lot of which depends on how many people are registered with us.

William: So the answer is no, patients do not pay to see a doctor. What they must do is to make an appointment. You can't just turn up at the clinic. Is this different from China, Li?

Yang Li: Yes it is different. 是的, 和中国不同的是, 在英国看病必须要预约 to make an appointment.

William: While people don't pay to SEE the doctor they need to pay for any prescriptions that they are given.

Yang Li: 在英国看医生不需要挂号费, 不过药费要自己付。病人需要拿着医生的处方去附近的药店取药, 因为, 英国的诊所里都不设药房。

William: Well that's how we get to see a doctor in the UK, if you ever come to the UK to study or work you need to do just the same. Register with a GP.

Yang Li: Hope that helps with your question Gao Yuanxue and thanks to all of you listening to this programme. Any other questions? Just send us an email to chinaelt@bbc.co.uk. Bye for now.

William: 再见。

Yang Li: Well, carry on with your apple.

William: Oh yeah, I'd forgotten about that. Goodbye everyone.

Glossary

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| GP or general practitioner 家庭医生 | advantages 优点/好处 |
| emergency 急诊/紧急情况 | diagnose 诊断 |
| patients 病人 | to make an appointment 预约 |
| clinic 医务室 | prescriptions 处方 |
| to register 注册/登记 | qualified 有资格的 |
| sick or ill 生病 | to refer the patient to a specialist 介绍病人去看专家 |