

BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

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Good Manners 礼貌行为

Yang Li: 大家好，我是杨莉。欢迎收听英国问答节目。今天我邀请的搭档是我的同事 Emily。Hi Emily.

Emily: Hi Li. Hello everyone. Welcome to BBC Learning English. Today we've got a question on good British manners.

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I am interested in English culture very much, for example, so I want to know English manners. My Chinese name is Chen Manzhu 我家乡在辽宁锦州。

Yang Li: 辽宁的陈曼竹同学对英国文化特别感兴趣，她想了解英国人的礼貌行为都有哪些。

Emily: Well, this is a big question to talk about but I think what we are concentrating on today is good manners in public places.

Yang Li: Sounds good, 今天我们集中介绍在公众场合的一些礼貌举止和行为。

Emily: The first person we spoke to is Marie:

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Well, I think my idea of politeness really is just general consideration for other people. For example, if you see a mum struggling with a couple of kids with a pram or push chair trying to get upstairs at a railway station, I just think it common courtesy really to try and give a hand.

Emily: Marie thinks that to be polite you need to have a general consideration for other people.

Yang Li: General consideration 为他人着想。比如你在火车站上看到一位带着两个小孩子的母亲，很吃力的想把婴儿车推上楼去。婴儿车就是。

Emily: A pram or pushchair. So it's common courtesy to give a hand. The word courtesy is spelt c-o-u-r-t-e-s-y.

Yang Li: Courtesy 客气礼貌 to give a hand 就是礼貌相助。Next we hear from Bharti how impressed people are by British politeness.

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Well generally I find British people extremely polite, very disciplined in things. For example when I travel on the tube I always see that there is always somebody who gives up their seat for a pregnant woman or elderly people or women with children. I have great admiration for British way of life because there is a lot things people can learn from this in other parts of the world.

Emily: This is a very typical example. On the tube people will give up their seat for pregnant women, elderly people or women with children.

Yang Li: 孕妇 pregnant women, 老人 elderly people 或带孩子的妇女 women with children.

Emily: Bharti said that she is full of admiration for the British way of life.

Yang Li: Full of admiration for the British way of life 对英国的生活方式充满了敬意。

Emily: Well another example is how and when you can use your mobile phone: Listen to Diarmuid:

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I think one example of British good manners compared to perhaps certain other nationalities is in the use of mobile phones. I have noticed when I am abroad in meetings if people's mobile phone rings people immediately pick it up and answer and I think here in the UK, certainly people with good manners don't use their mobile phones in meetings. If you are having a meal in a restaurant it's better not to use it. Of course during a show or cinema you would obviously turn it off.

Yang Li: Diarmuid is well travelled so he is in a very good position to make such a comment.

Emily: So the message from Diarmuid is people with good manners don't use their mobile phones in meetings restaurants or the cinema.

Yang Li: 是的。开会, 餐馆就餐或在电影院都不应该使用移动电话。其原因呢就是要顾及周围的其他人。

Emily: Another thing is the polite way British people talk to each other. Here's Martina.

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British people are very polite in the way they talk. They are just so lovely. They use a lot of words like please and thank you and excuse me and constructions of sentences are extremely polite. Even in the situation when there is a lot of pressure in the air they would be talking to you in a very very polite manner and they would make sure that the communication is on a very very polite level and nobody gets offended with the way they speak to them.

- Emily:** Yes I quite agree with Martina there. We do use please and thank you a lot.
- Yang Li:** But notice the reasons why the British like to do so.
- Emily:** She said that we make sure that communication is very polite so that nobody gets offended.
- Yang Li:** 英国人之如此喜欢频繁使用礼貌用语是为了让交流保持在一个彬彬有礼的层面上，同时也不会触犯任何人。No one gets offended.
- Emily:** And last but not least, is the habit of queuing. Here is Lorraine.

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British people like to queue I think mainly because it's a tradition. And they are very polite and basically don't like to upset other people. So we will all queue at the bus stop while increasingly now others do not and they form their own queue at the other side of the bus stop, but we are so polite we won't say anything.

- Emily:** Here Lorraine says that queuing is a British tradition and basically we don't want to upset other people. She said British people are so polite they even don't complain when others don't queue.
- Yang Li:** Marvellous. I am full of admiration there.
- Emily:** Well Li if I remember correctly, you made a programme about queuing.
- Yang Li:** Emily you've got such a very good memory. 是的，我专门做过一个英国问答节目，详细解释为什么英国人特别喜欢排队。所以欢迎大家上网查看。
- Emily:** It's www.bbcchina.com.cn
- Yang Li:** 也欢迎大家随时把需要了解的问题给发电子邮件 chinaelt@bbc.co.uk
- Emily:** We look forward to hearing from you. Bye for now.
- Yang Li:** 我们下次节目再会!

Glossary

good manners 礼貌行为/举止	admiration 敬意/佩服
pram 婴儿车	way of life 生活方式
pushchair 婴儿车	offend 冒犯
courtesy 礼貌	upset 使生气恼怒
typical 典型的	complain 抱怨