

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

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### Portfolio 精讲 Portfolio

Yang Li: 大家好我是杨莉, 欢迎收听你问我答。I've invited my colleague William to help with today's question about a difficult word.

William: Hello I'm William. It's good to be with you Li. Let's see what the question is, shall we?

Yang Li: Well, David from China sent us this email:

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*Would you please explain and give some examples for using the word 'portfolio'?*

William: The word portfolio is spelt p-o-r-t-f-o-l-i-o portfolio. It's one of those words that have several meanings. So shall we explain them one by one?

Yang Li: Good idea, let's start with the easiest.

William: So as a noun it refers to a portable case for holding material, such as loose papers, photographs, or drawings.

Yang Li: 作为名词, 它的第一个意思是, 公文包或文件夹。

William: For example:

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*A: May I help you?*

*B: Yes. I am looking for a portfolio for my boyfriend.*

*A: OK. Are you thinking of a good presentation portfolio or a more practical one?*

*B: Just a practical one for holding papers and documents.*

William: This word derives from the Italian word portafogli. Portare means carry and foglio means leaf.

Yang Li: Mmm, very knowledgeable. 原来, 这个词是由意大利语衍生出来的, 意思是携带树叶, 树叶被文件取代了。所以这就是文件包 portfolio 的来历。

William: The second meaning of portfolio is a collection of creative work to be shown to potential customers or employers.

Yang Li: 第二个意思是代表作选辑，可以是摄影，绘画或设计图等等。

William: So you often hear of a phrase such as a photographer's portfolio or an architect's portfolio.

Yang Li: In that sense I think every actor has a portfolio of photographs, don't they?

William: Yes, they do. Let's hear another example:

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*A: I'm getting my portfolio of work ready for tomorrow's job interview. I feel a bit nervous.*

*B: No, you shouldn't. Look, you've such an impressive portfolio. I'm sure you will get the job.*

*A: Thanks. I hope so.*

William: Now the word portfolio has another meaning - the position and duties of a government minister.

Yang Li: Portfolio 的第三个意思是部长的职位。

William: For example, the Prime Minister offered her the foreign affairs portfolio.

Yang Li: 首相请她出任外交部长 the foreign affairs portfolio. But I have a question here for you, William. Can you use this word portfolio to refer to the position of a manager or other leaders as well?

William: Usually not I'm afraid. It's usually just the government. Well another phrase you often hear is Minister without portfolio.

Yang Li: 一个没有具体分管项目的部长，也就是不管部部长。Minister without portfolio.

William: Finally in economics and finance the word portfolio means the complete investments held by an individual investor or by a financial organization.

Yang Li: 最后就是作为一种金融投资词汇，它还可以表示有价证券一览表或综合投资一览表。请听例句。

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*A: How is your pension?*

*B: Well my pension is quite secure because the fund has a mixed portfolio, so it should be low risk.*

Yang Li: 此句里的 portfolio 是总体方案。Mixed portfolio 也就是混合的，综合的投资方案。

**William:** Nowadays a lot of people go for portfolio employment. This refers to the practice of working for several employers simultaneously rather than working full-time for a single employer.

**Yang Li:** 同时打多家工就是 portfolio employment.

**William:** So we've looked at quite a few usages there. But of all the different meanings we've explained the basic idea of the word is a portable case. And the other meanings are just metaphors.

**Yang Li:** Metaphor 意思是比喻。Thanks William for a nice round up of today's programme. Hope it is helpful to you David and thanks for your question.

**William:** And we've built up a good portfolio of Question and Answer of the week programmes on our website, [www.bbcukchina.com](http://www.bbcukchina.com).

**Yang Li:** 欢迎大家随时登陆我们的网页查看。谢谢收听，下次节目再会。

**William:** Bye.