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Highway, Freeway and Motorway 单词'公路'的几种说法

Helen: Hello everyone and welcome to Question and Answer of the Week. I'm Helen.

Feifei: 大家好我是冯菲菲，在今天的《你问我答》节目中我们将讨论一下远在澳大利亚朋友的 Cathy 发来的一个问题。

Helen: Cathy would like us to explain the difference between highway, freeway and motorway.

Feifei: Highway, freeway 和 motorway, 这三个单词都以 way 结尾，但是它们之间的区别是什么呢？

Helen: One thing we can be sure of is that all three words are related to roads. However they have slightly different meanings in America and in Britain.

Feifei: OK. 首先这三个词都和道路有关，但是它们的意思在美式英语和英式英语里就有所不同了。

Helen: Now, let's explain them one by one. According to the Oxford Advanced Learner Dictionary, the word highway is commonly used in America and it usually means a main road connecting large towns.

Feifei: Highway 在美式英语里经常出现，一般指连接两个城市的主要交通干道 a main road connecting large towns. 但是在英国我也听到过 highway 这个词。

Helen: That's very true, highway in the UK means a public road and it's usually used in formal circumstances. It's not a word that you hear in everyday conversations.

Feifei: Highway 在英式英语中是一个正式表达，指的是公共道路 public road. 我们一般在日常对话中不会用到，但是在书籍和报纸上会看到。

Helen: For example, the organisation that is responsible for maintaining conditions of public roads is called the Highways Agency, and there's also a booklet containing all the official rules about using public roads, that's called the Highway Code.

Feifei: 在英国最容易让人想起的两个 highway 用法一个是 the Highways Agency 这是专门负责维修公共道路的政府部门；另外一个就是 the Highway Code 这是一本小册子，里面包括了所有交通规则和条例。

Helen: Now let's focus on the word freeway. It's used almost exclusively in the US.

Feifei: Freeway 绝对是美式英语，这又是一条什么样的公路呢？

Helen: It's a wide road, with at least two lanes in each direction, and traffic can travel fast for long distances between large towns.

Feifei: 听起来 freeway 是一条连接两个城市的高速公路，和 highway 的区别是在 freeway 上，每个方向至少有 2 条以上的车道。Lane 就是车道，通道的意思。

Helen: Another expression we often hear in the States is expressway; it means the same thing as freeway.

Feifei: 和 freeway 同义的还有 expressway, 也是有多条车道的高速公路。

Helen: Finally, Cathy mentioned motorway. That's a word we are very familiar with in the UK.

Feifei: 是的，motorway 在英国就会经常听到和看到了。Motorway 和美语里的 freeway 是一样的，也是连接各大城市的高速公路。

Helen: And in the UK, motorways are given names like the M1, M2, M6.

Feifei: I hear the M25 mentioned a lot on traffic news.

Helen: Well, the M25 is an orbital motorway on the outskirts of London. It's also earned the nicknames 'M25 Car Park' and 'the Road to Hell'.

Feifei: Outskirts 外围。M25 是伦敦的外环线，每个方向都有 4 到 5 条车道，几乎天天都会堵车，所以这里也是很多司机的噩梦地带。很多司机把它称为 M25 停车场或者是通向地狱的道路 the Road to Hell.

Helen: Before we move on, let's quickly recap the differences between highway, freeway and motorway.

Feifei: OK. 我们先总结一下这三个词的区别吧。Highway 在美式英语里是连接两个城市的公路，而在英式英语里 highway 是公共道路的正式用语，很少出现在日常谈话中。

Helen: How about freeway?

Feifei: Freeway 是美式用语，意思是高速公路，而且每个方向要有 2 条车道才能算是 freeway.

Helen: And motorway.

Feifei: 在英国，说起高速公路就要用 motorway, 通常这种连接城市的高速公路上没有红绿灯，道路宽敞，时速限制是每小时 70 英里。

Helen: Great. Thanks for clarifying these three very similar words and their uses.

Feifei: You are welcome. I have a suggestion. 说起交通用语，美式英语和英式英语有好些词的用法都不一样。我们今天在这里就简单说一下吧。What do you think?

Helen: I think that's an excellent idea. We'll keep it simple for everyone. Here are a few of the common ones.

Insert

Where do pedestrian's walk?

*They walk on a sidewalk.
In Britain pedestrians walk on a pavement.*

Feifei: Pedestrian 行人当然应该走人行道了。在美国是 sidewalk, 在英国是 pavement.

Insert

The quickest and cheapest way to travel around cities like London, New York and Shanghai is ...

*On the subway, that's the easiest way to get around in New York.
On the underground or the tube.*

Feifei: 地铁在很多城市都是最方便的公共交通工具。在美国我们说 the subway, 而在英国我们说 the underground 或者是 the tube.

Insert

*What's another word for taxi in the UK?
Cab. London is famous for its black cabs, they're very spacious and comfortable to sit in.*

Feifei: 出租车 taxi 在世界各地都通用, 但是在英国我们也可以说 cab.

Helen: Sadly we have run of time on this programme. It's been interesting explaining some of the differences between American and British English.

Feifei: 感谢大家收听, 我们下次节目再见。

Helen: Bye bye.