

BBC Learning English – Q & A of the Week

About this script

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Q & A of the Week: Holidays 假日

Tracy: Hello, you're listening to Question and Answer of the Week from BBC Learning English. I'm Tracy.

Li: 大家好，我是杨莉。

Tracy: And this week's question is from Tong Zhang who is in France.

Li: Tong Zhang wanted to know:

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What is the difference between holiday and holidays? Also, what is the difference between a holiday and a vacation?

Li: 问题提得很好。I think this is a very good question.

Tracy: Yes and you know this is the perfect time of year for us to answer a question on holidays.

Li: Why do you say that, Tracy?

Tracy: Well, we recently just had a few days off work. They were public holidays.

Li: A public holiday 公共假日。人们不必去上班了，商店和银行一般也都停业休息。在英语中 public holidays 也可以被称为 bank holidays 或 national holidays.

Tracy: Yes, so back to the question, the word holiday can sometimes appear tricky to use at first.

Li: Why?

Tracy: Well because the word holiday or holidays can be used in several different situations and to mean different things.

Li: Let's look at some of these situations, shall we?

Tracy: Good idea.

Li: 第一种情况: holiday 这个词可以表示假期，也就是不上班不上学的一段时间。

Tracy: For example: I really need a holiday as work is just too busy at the moment.

- Li: 在这个例句中，讲话的人说他需要休息一下因为工作太忙了，此处的 **holiday** 意思是不去上班，休息一下。
- Tracy: **Great, so we are agreed that we can talk about a holiday as being time away from work or school.**
- Li: **Yes, we are agreed. It could be a day-off, a few days or a longer period of time.**
- Tracy: **Good, let's move on to scenario two:**
- Li: 好的。**Holiday** 可以用来表示全国放假的日子。换句话说就是 **national** 或 **public** 假日。
- Tracy: **Yes and did you know that in England we have approximately eight public holidays or bank holidays each year.**
- Li: **Yeah, I did know that. There are also several public holidays in China you know. They are often held in celebration of something.**
- Tracy: **I see. Now, moving along, are you ready to describe the third scenario?**
- Li: **Of course, 第三种情况就是: holiday 这个词可以表示一次愉快的旅行。**
- Tracy: **Ah yes, the word holiday can also be used to talk about a trip. So I could say my recent holiday to Venice was wonderful.**
- Li: **Yes, you could say that. I'm not surprised you had a wonderful time in Venice. It is a very romantic city, isn't it?**
- Tracy: **It is but that's all I'm prepared to say about that. I think we should move on to our final scenario.**
- Li: **Ok, 还有第四种情况，那就是 holidays 表示一种固定的假期，这段时间人们不需要去上学或者去上班。**
- Tracy: **Exactly. The word holidays is often used when we are talking about times of the year when people have long holidays such as Christmas or Summer.**
- Li: **Ah yes, at those time of the year lots of people are off work or school.**
- Tracy: **Yes, in fact one of my friends is a primary school teacher and she get's six weeks off work during summer. I think the summer holidays are far too long.**
- Li: **Tracy 觉得 summer holidays 太长了。她认为下学生不需要六周的假期，不过我倒不这么看。I think we'll have to agree to disagree here.**
- Tracy: **Ok, so we have established that the word holiday can be used in different situations.**
- Li: **Yes and at the beginning of today's programme we mentioned that we have recently had two public holidays in the UK.**

Tracy: Yes, most people in England did not go to work or school on Friday 10th April or Monday 13th April. These days were public holidays.

Li: So, what did people do during the long weekend?

Tracy: Good question Li, we asked some people what they did during the recent public holidays and you are now going to hear their answers.

Li: 下面我们一起来听听这些人谈论他们是如何度过复活节假期的。请大家注意每个人讲话的口气，判断一下他们喜欢还是不喜欢不去单位上班的两天公共假日。 **Public holidays.**

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I was in Houston Texas, in the United States with my family.

I cycled every day, fabulous weather, fabulous riding, between about 20 to 30 miles each day.

I decided to go by train to Bath and the weather there was magnificent, very sunny, and I enjoyed the day out.

I was working all day long. It was one of the busiest days of the week and actually of the whole year as far as I know. So, I was stuck here from ten in the morning until half past six. No actually it was later than that.

Li: 听上去大多数人都是愉快地度过了一个长周末的，或者是出游，或者是和家人团聚。

Tracy: Yes, most people seemed to enjoy having some time off work. Well everyone except the last person we spoke to. Let's listen to what he said again.

Li: 这个人为什么不喜欢刚刚过去的公共假日呢？

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I was working all day long. It was one of the busiest days of the week and actually of the whole year as far as I know. So, I was stuck here from ten in the morning until half past six. No actually it was later than that.

Tracy: So he did not really enjoy the public holiday. Did you hear why?

Li: He said he had to work and it was a really busy day.

Tracy: But it wasn't so bad as I think he will have got paid double.

Li: Paid double. 公共假日加班他能够拿到双份工资。 That's good, huh?

Tracy: Yes, that's not so bad at all.

Li: We've been talking about holidays.

Tracy: Yes and to finish today's show, I thought we could just look at some other way's of describing holidays.

Li: 很好，现在我们来介绍一些和公共假日 **holiday** 意思相似的其它词语。

- Tracy: Instead of saying: I went on holiday, you could say: I went on a trip / I went on a vacation.
- Li: 不错，也就是说 went on a trip 和 went on vacation 也都表示度假 went on holiday.
- Tracy: Yes you might hear any of those phrases when someone is talking about a holiday that they have been on. Here are another few phrases. Instead of saying: I need to take a holiday, you could say: I need to take time-off; I need to take a break; need to take a vacation.
- Li: 很好。Take time off, take a break, 还有 take a vacation 这三个短语都表示 take a holiday.
- Tracy: Absolutely. One thing though, the word vacation is more common in American English but British people will understand the word vacation if you use it instead of the word holiday.
- Li: Well today we have talked a lot about holidays but I haven't asked you if you are going on holiday this year Tracy?
- Tracy: Well, I'm not sure yet. I've just taken a short trip to Venice and that was beautiful but I'd like to go on a longer holiday in the summer, somewhere with a beach. Actually, I had been thinking about going on holiday to France.
- Li: Oh, maybe you could ask Tong Zhang for some advice. As he is currently living in France you know.
- Tracy: I might just do that. In the meantime, I do hope we have answered your question Tong Zhang.
- Li: 是的，如果其他听众朋友碰到英语学习上的问题，请给我们发电子邮件：questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk.
- Tracy: And you can visit our website www.bbcchina.com.cn for our Question and Answer of the Week programmes and for lots of other free English language learning materials.
- Li: Until next time, bye!
- Tracy: Bye!