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Postcode 邮政编码

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N7 6BS. SW12 9SN. W2 5EA. DA4 0BN. BT5 7QR.

Feifei: 他们说的是什么啊? 字母和数字都混在一块。

Helen: Well, what we've just heard are people's home postcodes; or zip codes as it's known in the States.

Feifei: I see. Postcode 邮政编码。这就是我们今天英国问答的主题。欢迎收听, 我是冯菲菲。

Helen: Hello I'm Helen. Welcome to Ask About Britain.

Feifei: 我们收到听友 Joanne 发给我们的邮件, 她想知道英国的邮政编码是怎么一回事儿?

Helen: Joanne is a bit confused about the UK postcode system and wonders what postcodes like NW2 3AL mean?

Feifei: 有关英国邮政编码的历史, 我们采访了国家邮政局的历史解说员 Chris Taft.

Helen: First I asked him when the postcode system came into use in the UK.

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An earlier form of the postcode system goes back to the 1850s, into 1856. The modern postcode system, the postcode system we use today, goes back to a trial that took place in 1959. It was then used more widely in England from the mid 1960s and used across the country from then on.

Feifei: 原来邮政编码的历史并不是很悠久。听 Chris 介绍说最早的系统是从 1850 年左右形成的。

Helen: The modern postcode system goes back to a trial that took place in 1959 and from the 1960s the whole country started using the system.

Feifei: 试验 trial, 现在的邮政编码系统在 1959 年通过试验期以后, 在 60 年代就广为使用了。那么为什么要用邮政编码呢? 光写地址难道不够吗?

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The purpose was tied in with the fact that more and more of the postal system was being automated and machines were being used to sort the mail out, but the machines were unable to read the full addresses for people, so a form of coding was introduced, just to help those machines sort the mail.

Helen: So it's about improving efficiency and automation was introduced to sort the mail out.

Feifei: 提高效率 **improving efficiency**. 自动化 **automation**. 邮政局引进了自动化机器来做邮件分类 **sorting** 的这项工作, 所以需要一套机器能识别的代码系统, 这就是为什么需要 **postcode** 的原因。

Helen: Now, let's look at the format of the postcode in the UK. It's a combination of letters and numbers.

Feifei: 中国的邮政编码是数字, 英国的邮政编码是字母和数字混合, 分成两部分。比如我们公司 **BBC** 国际台的邮编是 **WC2B 4PH**。

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So the first part of the code takes it to a certain area. WC is west central which is the western central district of London. The second part of the postcode takes it to a specific street or area of street. Normally the postcode in a street would go down to about 15 houses roughly.

Feifei: 原来第一部分里的 **WC** 是代表 **West Central**, 伦敦市中心的西部。

Helen: The second part of the postcode takes it to a specific street or area of the street.

Feifei: 第二部分 **4PH** 给的信息更具体, 是这个区里哪条街, 一般包括范围是 **15** 幢住宅楼的面积。

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With businesses and bigger premises, which this would be, it would probably be a specific building, so 4PH would probably only relate to that particular building.

Feifei: **BBC** 国际台是在一幢大楼里 **a business premise**, 所以有自己编号, **4PH** 就是 **Bush House**。

Helen: So with a postcode, you can narrow down an address to a specific place in a city.

Feifei: 对很多人来说, 伦敦的邮政编码可以起提示方向的作用。让我们听听 **Chris** 的解释。

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A London code can tell you what part of London you're in or you're looking for. You know, if it's west central you know it's a central London area, towards the middle of



London. Whereas, obviously, if you've got an SE, south east postcode, then it's the other side of the river Thames, in the south of London.

Helen: And this information can be helpful for visitors when they're visiting London.

Feifei: Chris 举了几个例子，比如 WC 就是 west central, 看到这个邮编就知道地址在市中心附近，如果看到 SE south east 那么就是说过了泰晤士河，在伦敦的东南面。像 Joanne 提到的 NW, 就是 north west, 在伦敦西北方向。

Helen: Nowadays, postcodes aren't just useful for sorting mail. Companies are using this valuable information in many different ways.

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Oh yes, lots of people use postcodes. Insurance companies use them to work out the premium for an area; satellite navigation systems in cars use them, because it narrows down an area.

Feifei: 现在的邮政编码的用途已经不仅仅是为了邮寄时用的了。比如保险公司会用 postcode 来评估保险附加费 insurance premium, 还有卫星导航仪也是用 postcode 来定位，因为精确度会更高。

Helen: Well, I hope we've helped Joanne to understand a little bit more about the UK postcode system.

Feifei: 如果你想给在英国的朋友们写信，别忘了填写正确的 postcode.

Helen: It'll help the letter to get there more quickly.

Feifei: 谢谢收听英国问答，我们下次节目再会。

Helen: Bye bye.

Glossary

trial 试验	tied in 和...连在一起
purpose 目的，作用	code 密码
premise 场地，场所	narrow down (使) 缩小
insurance 保险	premium 保险附加费
satellite navigation system 卫星导航系统	format 格式