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Writing Letters 写信

Jo: Welcome to another Ask About Britain programme from BBC Learning English where we answer another of your questions about British life and culture. I'm Jo and with me today is Yang Li.

Li: Hello 大家好。今天的问题来自 Nikole. 她想知道当今的英国人是不是还愿意动笔写信。

Insert

Recently Chinese people don't write letters as often as they used to – do British people write letters often? And in what situations do British people write letters?

Li: Nekole 问: 英国人还经常写信吗? 而且在什么情况下才写信呢?

Jo: Well I spoke to some British people Nikole and asked them those questions for you.

Li: 下面录音里的男子来自英国东北部的纽卡斯尔, 说话带有浓重的地方口音, 和标准口音有些不同。

Jo: How often do these people write letters?

Insert

- *I don't write letters very often these days because I tend to use email instead. And obviously with mobile phones you tend to text so actually sitting down to write a letter, I don't really do it.*
- *I probably write a letter about once every two or three months and it's normally not a personal letter to a friend – it would normally be to a bank or to my employer or something like that.*

Jo: So the man said he doesn't write letters very often these days because he tends to write emails instead.

Li: Tend to 倾向于, 往往以电子邮件取代书信。他还说现在人人使用手机, 人们都倾向于发短信。

Jo: In English, we use the verb text – to text. People tend to text so he doesn't really sit down to write a letter. The woman you heard there told us she writes a letter about once every two to three months.

Li: 每两三个月写一封信, 而且通常是...



Jo: Normally it's not a personal letter to a friend. It would normally be to a bank or to her employer.

Li: 雇主 – 或类似雇主的那类人。 Or something like that.

Insert

- *I don't write letters very often these days because I tend to use email instead. And obviously with mobile phones you tend to text so actually sitting down to write a letter, I don't really do it.*
- *I probably write a letter about once every two or three months and it's normally not a personal letter to a friend – it would normally be to a bank or to my employer or something like that.*

Jo: On Ask About Britain from BBC Learning English today, we're answering Nikole's question about writing letters. Now we've heard that people don't write letters so often because email and texting is easier these days.

Li: 一般情况下人们不会用书信和朋友联系，书信多用于官方交往，比如写给银行或雇主。

Jo: So when people do write letters in Britain – how would they write them?

Insert

- *I always use the computer to write the letters now.*
- *I'd do it on the computer generally – I wouldn't handwrite them because my handwriting's shocking – so normally I'd type them.*

Li: 嗯，听上去人们都喜欢用电脑来写信啰。

Jo: And interestingly we heard the man there say that he would not handwrite a letter.

Li: 手写 **handwrite**. 上面的男子说他不愿意动笔写信，因为他的字体特别不好看!

Jo: He says his handwriting is shocking – it's really bad. Now this is a very interesting point because there is a general belief in the UK that people can't handwrite very well because of all the texting and emailing we do. Have a listen to the results here of a survey.

Li: 调查。

Insert

Teachers and parents worried about falling standards yet in a survey 28% of teachers said they weren't even confident in teaching the skill of handwriting. And nearly 25% of mums and dads admitted they couldn't write joined up writing themselves – both blamed emails and texting.

Li: 好，先让我们来熟悉几个关键词语。

Jo: Falling standards.

- Li: 标准下降。
- Jo: **Skill – the skill of handwriting.**
- Li: 写字的技巧。
- Jo: **Joined-up writing.**
- Li: 连体字，草书。
- Jo: **To blame.**
- Li: 责怪，抱怨。

Insert

Teachers and parents worried about falling standards yet in a survey 28% of teachers said they weren't even confident in teaching the skill of handwriting. And nearly 25% of mums and dads admitted they couldn't write joined up writing themselves – both blamed emails and texting.

- Li: 啊，Nikole 提出的问题终于得到了全面解答。结论是，英国人不常写信，即使写信，也是处理公事而已而且还是用电脑来写信，久而久之，人们的书法越来越差了。
- Jo: **People do communicate a lot – but they send emails and use mobile phones rather than writing letters.**
- Li: 那么中国的情况是否类似呢？欢迎大家给我们写信，电子邮箱是 chinaelt@bbc.co.uk。也欢迎大家登陆我们的网页 www.bbcchina.com.cn。请你不要客气呀，有关英国的事，你随时有困惑不解随时提问。好，我们下次节目再会！
- Jo: **Bye!**

Glossary

to tend to do something 趋于做谋事	to text/texting 发短信/文字短信
normally 通常	an employer 雇主
to handwrite/handwriting 手写/字体	a survey 调查
falling standards 标准下降	a skill 技巧
joined-up writing 联体字	to blame 去责怪/抱怨