

BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

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Education: Maths 教育: 数学

Helen: Hello. Welcome to another BBC Learning English programme. I'm Helen.

Jean: And I'm Jean. 欢迎收听 Ask About Britain, 我们在这个节目当中专门来回答大家有关英国的各种提问。

Helen: Jean, are you good at maths?

Jean: Em, well, I can count out my change at the shops. Why are you asking?

Helen: Well, our question from Sunny is a bit of a maths question.

Jean: 来自四川的 Sunny 提出的问题是: 在英国, 如果不用计算器学生们是怎样学习算算数的。

Helen: I've been wondering about that too.

Jean: 要回答这个问题, 看来我们得去英国的学校走一趟了。

Helen: We joined a lively class at Broadwater Primary school in south London to find out if they enjoyed maths lessons.

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Kind of yes and kind of no.

'Cause it's boring, you only have fun sometimes, but sometimes you don't have fun.

Sometimes you get to play fun games, and sometimes it's really strict and you get to use different methods that make it really easy.

Jean: 看来, 大家对数学课的态度都不一样。

Helen: Some of them think it's fun because you get to play fun games.

Jean: 如果上数学课的时候, 有 games 游戏。同学们的学习兴致就来了。

Helen: But it's not always fun and games. Sometimes it can be strict and you have to learn to use different methods to solve a problem.

Jean: 是啊。如果要学习不同的问题解答方式 different problem solving methods, 有时候是让人很头疼的。

Helen: So what do the students think of calculators?

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I think calculator, when you do a calculation, it just gives you the answer. But if you use your brain. (that's much better?) Yes.

Jean: Well, they certainly know what a calculator can do for them. 不过, 这位女同学能用心算更好, 因为计算器只能告诉你答案, 不能提供解释。

Helen: That's right. So how do they learn maths in the school? Sophie, their teacher talked to me about her way of teaching maths.

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Often children aren't interested in maths, because they find it difficult and children enjoy something they're good at. So it's really to help them to achieve, to help them to see the patterns and the logic. We do a fair amount of playing games. But often it's the key for the children to enjoy their success.

Jean: 听 Sophie 这么介绍, 其实教孩子们数学, 最关键的是要提起大家的兴趣。

Helen: So to encourage them to do well at maths, they do play a fair amount of games in class.

Jean: A fair amount 也就是挺多的。为了让大家喜欢数学, 游戏成了很好的教学工具 a key for children to enjoy learning maths.

Helen: And playing games can help children to see patterns.

Jean: 规律 patterns

Helen: And logic.

Jean: 逻辑 logic.

Helen: One of the most important thing to learn in maths is the times tables.

Jean: 九九乘除表 times table. 在中国, 小学一年级就会背了。

Helen: Well, we have a little more time to learn those in the UK.

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We have a new national curriculum for maths, a new framework, and we're told by the end of year four they should know all their times tables. So that's by the ages of nine.

Jean: National Curriculum 就是国家教育大纲, 最近刚推出新的方针 a new framework. 英国的小学生们需要在四年级结束之前, 学会九九乘除表。

Helen: It's very late compared to China, but many children would have learnt them before the age of nine.

Jean: So when is calculator introduced? 小学生们什么时候开始用计算器呢?

Helen: Well, Sophie told me that children are aware of calculators from an early age, but they are taught to use it properly much later.

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And from the age of nine, we start teaching them how to use their calculator to help them solve more complex problems, in the same ways as we would use a calculator as adults.

Jean: Sophie 说从九岁开始, 去学习如何使用计算器来解决复杂的数学问题 **solving complex problems** 就成了数学课的一部分。

Helen: So from age nine onwards, the children are taught how to use the calculators in the same ways as adults use them.

Jean: What about the children in Sophie's class? Can they do maths without calculators?

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6x6 what's that equal to? 36. Well done.

Record what's 11 x11? – 121.

130 -45, what's the answer? 85.

Helen: I have to say this lot were brilliant with maths. They certainly put me to shame.

Jean: Don't worry, you're not the only one feeling that. 好了, 希望今天我们回答了 Sunny 的问题。大家也别忘了带来我们的网站看看, 我们的网址是 www.bbcchina.com.cn.

Helen: See you next time. Bye.