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Road Names 道路名称

William: Hello and welcome to Ask about Britain – my name’s William Kremer. This week, I’m reporting from outside Kensington Town Hall in West London.

Feifei: 这期的《英国问答》节目和以往有些不同，**William** 正站在位于伦敦西区的肯辛顿市政厅外给我们带来报道。那么这周他要回答的是什么问题呢？

William: In this programme I want to answer a question from Xin in China. Xin says that he used to live in England for two years but is confused about English road names – for example, Acorn Drive, Duck Street, Park Close and so on. Xin asks why we use words like drive, street, close, avenue and road. So what's the difference between all these words? Is there a difference?

Feifei: 听友 **Xin** 曾经住在英国，但是英国道路的名称一直以来让她感到很困惑。那么英语里为什么有这么这么多可以用来表示路的词呢？比方说 **drive, street, close, avenue** 还有 **road**. **William** 采访了负责伦敦肯辛顿区和切尔西西区街道命名的官员 **Barry Griffin**. 那么让我们一起听听他们是怎么回答 **Xin** 提出的这个问题？

William: Well to help answer Xin’s question I’ve come here to Kensington Town hall. And I’m joined by Barry Griffin, who is naming and numbering officer at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Hello Barry.

Barry: Hello William. Nice to meet you.

William: Nice to meet you. Well Barry, to help answer Xin’s question I suggest we take a walk around Kensington and you can maybe explain what some these different names for roads mean.

Barry: Yes – very good idea.

Feifei: **William** 和 **Barry** 在肯辛顿的街道上边走边回答 **Xin** 的问题。**William** 的第一个问题是为什么有这么这么多单词都可以表示路，那答案究竟是什么呢？

William: First of all, I suppose the basic question is, why do we need lots of different words instead of just calling everything ‘road’?

Barry: They actually have different definitions. So for example, an avenue should technically be lined with trees, should be quite a broad road

but it would have trees to either side of it. Um, if you take the word 'drive' this would have originally been the roadway or driveway leading up to an important house.

Feifei: Barry 解释说不同的表示路的单词有不同的定义 **definitions**, 那你刚才有没有听到 **avenue** 和 **drive** 的 **definitions** 是什么?

Barry: They actually have different definitions. So for example, an avenue should technically be lined with trees, should be quite a broad road but it would have trees to either side of it. Um, if you take the word 'drive' this would have originally been the roadway or driveway leading up to an important house.

Feifei: An avenue 大街, 通常会 **be lined with trees** 街道两边有成行的树木。A drive 原本的意思是 **a driveway to an important house** 通往一所重要房子的车道。那么 **a road** 和 **a street** 的区别又是什么呢? 这个区别现在还存在吗?

William: We're now at Hornton Street. So why is this called 'Hornton Street' and not 'Hornton Road'?

Barry: Roads were originally of strategic importance connecting one part of the country to another. A street is much more local importance – so it's a connection between one part of a borough and another part of a borough but of course you then get exceptions like Kensington High Street, which again is a very important connection and also world-famous these days.

William: So in the past roads used to be bigger than streets but that's not really the case anymore.

Barry: Yes, not necessarily the case at all.

William: OK, so let's wander on!

Feifei: Barry 说, 在过去 **roads connected** 连接 **one part of the country to another**, 就是说公路连接每个国家的一个地区和另一个地区。相反, **streets** 则有 **much more local importance** 对于地方来说有更大重要性和意义, 可是现在有些 **streets** 也很重要, 所以不一定 **a road** 和 **a street** 就肯定有区别。

Feifei: William 和 Barry 来到了 **Sheffield Terrace** 这条街上, **terrace** 又是什么呢?

William: We've now come to a nice little road called Sheffield Terrace. And what is it that makes this road a terrace?

Barry: Basically, all the houses are joined one to another. So it's not like semi-detached where you have two houses, a space and then two more houses or detached where you have a house, a large space and another house. You'll notice every single building is attached one to another, so that makes a terrace.

Feifei: A terrace 所指的这种道路上所有的房子都是连在一起的, 就是说这条路两边的房子中间都没有空隙, 都是排房。William 和 Barry 也走了好一会儿了, 但是还有一个问题没回答呢, 什么是 **close**?

- William:** Well here we are at Camden House Close. What is it that makes this a close, Barry?
- Barry:** Basically, you're talking about a small road. Frequently it only has one entrance and exit, i.e. the same way in and out and it's just a small group of houses within there.
- William:** This really is a tiny little road and I think a car could go up it but just about.
- Barry:** Yes a car certainly would make it but not some of the huge lorries we see these days, I think they might have problems.
- Feifei:** 你听到答案了吗? 原来 a close 是一条很狭小的路, frequently it only has one entrance and exit 也就是说这条路的入口和出口是同一个。
- William:** Barry Griffin at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, thank you very much.
- Barry:** Thank you very much – it's been a pleasure.
- William:** It has for me too, and thanks Xin for your question, and if you're listening and you have a question about Britain, then don't delay in emailing us at chinaelt@bbc.co.uk. Bye bye!

Glossary

definition 定义	avenue 大街
lined with trees 两旁有树	drive 路 (原意是通往一所重要房子的车道)
driveway 原意是通往一所重要房子的车道	terrace 路 (这种路两边的房子都是相连的)
joined 相连的	close (入口和出口相同的) 小路

Answer to Listening Quiz

A = Camden House Close B = Sheffield Terrace