

BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

About this script

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UK Children's English 英国儿童学英语

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

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

Finn: That's right and today our question is from Zhao Chengchun. He sent in his question by mp3.

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My name is Zhao Chengchun. I come from Shanghai. My question is how do British children learn English? And what's the main difference between learning English in Britain and in China?

Li: 上海的赵成春同学很了解英国的孩子们是如何学习英语的，以及学英语在中国和英国的主要区别。就这个问题我们将采访两位身为母亲的英语教学专家和一位小学教师。

Finn: I think, when we talk about language, there is a distinction to be made here. One is language learning as in learning a foreign language, and the other one is language acquisition as with your mother tongue.

Li: Language learning 就是语言学习 language acquisition 语言习得。对于英国孩子来说，他们的英语首先是习得的。 Listen to Vicki:

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Well for English children of course they learn English from the moment they're born. And they just pick it up through immersion in the language, they hear English all around them and before they can even speak they can understand a lot of English before they learn to actually use words themselves. And of course their vocabulary gradually increases once they start to talk. And this just happens as a natural process really, nobody teaches a child to talk in any formal way. Once children go to school then they would learn grammar and how to write in English. And of course their vocabulary continues to increase as they get older and even into adulthood.

Finn: Now Vicki said that English children just pick it up through immersion in the language.

Li: 英国孩子是浸泡在母语环境中习得英语的， immersion 沉浸，浸没。 Pick up 不经意的拾起来。

Finn: They hear English all around them, so it's a natural process 自然过程。

Li: That's right. Nobody teaches a child to speak in a formal way.

Finn: And their vocabulary increases as they get older and even into adulthood.

Li: Adulthood 成年。 Next we hear Anna sharing her experience as a mother.

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Anna: Well, of course, firstly it's their native language, so they are going to find it easier than other people to learn English. But from my experience, a very good way is reading, reading a lot, listening to stories and also playing games, it's a very good way of increasing vocabulary and general understanding.

Li: Do you tend to correct your children when they are making mistakes?

Anna: Not very often – occasionally - but only if it's a really really bad error.

Finn: Ok, so for children here in Britain, for example, they find it easier than other people from other countries to learn English, of course, because it's their native language.

Li: Native language 母语。 Another word is mother tongue. For children learning English Anna suggests a few good ways of increasing vocabulary and understanding.

Finn: They are: reading, listening, and playing games, 读写和玩游戏。

Li: But as children start going to school at the age of 5 or 6 they do learn English in a systematic way. We spoke to a primary school teacher in South London.

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My name's Deborah Lawson and I'm a primary school teacher at Jubilee Primary school in Tulse Hill, London.

Finn: So how is English being taught in her school and how is English related to other subjects?

Li: 首先让我们预习几个关键词语，以便更好地理解。

Finn: Fiction.

Li: 虚构作品。

Finn: Non-fiction.

Li: 非小说类文学作品。

Finn: Features.

Li: 特点。
Finn: **Poetry.**
Li: 诗歌。
Finn: **Rhyming.**
Li: 押韵; 韵律。
Finn: **Blocks.**
Li: 单元, 阶段。
Finn: **Dictionary order.**
Li: 字典顺序。
Finn: **Curriculum.**
Li: 教学大纲。
Finn: **History.**
Li: 历史。
Finn: **Science.**
Li: 科学。

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English is taught everyday - there is an hour a day of English teaching and it's taught in different blocks. So we would take a non-fiction block first for maybe 3 or 4 weeks and we would look at different features of that, so that they would look at word level work; so it might be ordering things in dictionary order and then we would look at different texts and eventually the children would be writing their own non-fiction. And that works the same for fiction writing where children would write stories and look at different types of stories and poetry where they'd look at rhyming words for example.

Finn: **So, English is taught every day in different blocks.**
Li: 英语显然是主课, 每天都有, 分不同单元进行 **blocks** 就是单元, 阶段。
Finn: **In each block there is a different focus.**
Li: 每个单元重点不同, 有虚构作品 **fiction** 和非小说类文学作品 **non-fiction**.
Finn: **And there is also poetry, reading and writing, where children look at things like rhyming words.**

Li: Poetry and rhyming 诗歌和韵律。 Now listen to the next clip and find out how English is related to other school subjects:

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English would be a cross-curricular subject so we would use it for lots of other areas. So I'm teaching year three and they are seven and eight year olds. So we would use quite a lot of the work that they are doing in English - they've just covered non-fiction - so we're looking overall at the topic of the Romans. So we would use their skills that they are using in their English lessons in other areas, in history, or in science; for them to find different types of information and to bring that into the lesson. So that's something that covers the whole of the curriculum.

Finn: English is a cross-curricular subject.

Li: **Cross-curricular** 指横贯教学大纲的一门课程。也就是说，把英语科学的内容和方法用于其它门类的知识积累，比如历史课和科学课。

Finn: That's right, so children are asked to use the skills that they've learned in their English lessons, in other areas. So for example in history 历史, or in science 科学。

Li: I guess this is one key difference between learning English in the UK and in China.

Finn: I think it has to be, doesn't it. It would be wonderful though, wouldn't it, if children in China could use English as a tool to learn other subjects, then I think their English would be very different.

Li: That would be definitely ideal. 好了，今天的节目就到这儿。大家也别忘了常来我们的网站看看，我们的网址是 www.bbcchina.com.cn. See you next time.

Finn: Bye bye.

Glossary

language acquisition 语言习得	language learning 语言学习
distinction 区别	immersion 浸泡/沉浸
pick up (不经意地) 拾起来	adulthood 成年
native language 母语	mother tongue 母语
fiction 虚构作品	non-fiction 非小说文学作品
poetry 诗歌	rhyming 押韵
blocks 单元/阶段	curriculum 教学大纲