

About this script

Please note that this is not a word for word transcript of the programme as broadcast. In the recording and editing process, changes may have been made which may not be reflected here.

关于台词的备注:

请注意这不是广播节目的逐字稿件。本文稿可能没有体现录制、编辑过程中对节目做出的改变。

Naming 起名

Helen: Hello. Welcome to Ask About Britain from BBC Learning English. I'm Helen.

Li: 大家好，我是 Li。欢迎收听英国问答节目，在这个节目中我们会回答朋友们对英国风俗人情所提出的一些疑问。

Helen: Our question today is from Haoran, she's 18 years old and she's from Inner Mongolia.

Li: 内蒙古 Inner Mongolia, Haoran 的问题是。How do English people choose their names? 英国人是怎么取名的，有没有什么讲究？还有 Haoran 怎样可以给自己取一个好的英文名字。

Helen: So, let's get started. First English teacher Claire tells us what she thinks about how people name their children.

Insert

Well some people will have family reasons, that's quite a common link, you chose a family name. There might be religious reasons, particularly in a Christian culture, then you might chose a saint's name or something like that, or just often now, names that people like, it's just simply a matter of choice and you'll find a really diverse range of names in British culture.

Li: Claire 说家庭因素 family reasons 和宗教原因 religious reasons 对英国人取名有一定的影响。

Helen: Often we meet two generations of the family having the same first name.

Li: 对了，前任两位美国总统都叫乔治布什，他们也是父子关系。有很多英国家庭会让他们的孩子继承老一辈亲戚的名字。

Helen: It's a common link.

Li: 这是一个很普通的连接 a common link. 那么还有一点就是和宗教信仰有关了。基督教的信仰里有很多圣人 saints, 这些圣人的名字往往会被人引用。

Helen: For example, John, Matthew and Mary are considered to have roots in Christianity. But they're also very popular names without any religious attachment.

Li: 不过 Claire 认为现在英国人起名的时候考虑的是个人的喜好，只要自己喜欢就行了。

Helen: That's right, nowadays people often pick names that they like.

Li: It's simply a matter of choice, 随意选择。

Helen: Absolutely, there's a very diverse range of names, anything goes basically.

Li: Diverse 多样化的。现在英国人的名字可都是五花八门，什么都有。不过家庭医生 Dr Brassy 觉得很多英国人其实对自己的名字并不了解。

Insert

In England, your name is chosen for you by your parents, often it doesn't really mean anything, and most people probably don't know what their names mean.

Helen: Just like Chinese people, most English people are named by their parents when they're born.

Li: 那当然，起名这个工作都是家长的事儿。所以孩子们对自己的名字的来历可能会比较模糊。

Helen: And Dr Brassy himself wasn't a hundred percent confident about what his name meant.

Insert

My own name is Louis Brassy, Louis is erm, it comes from the Latin word Ludevequos, which I think is something to do with the lion, but I have to look it up.

Li: Dr Brassy 说他的名字是 Louis, 路易，还是从拉丁文里演变过来的。他说好像是和狮子 lion 有关。

Helen: But he's not sure, so he has to look it up in the dictionary or on the internet.

Li: Look it up 就是查询，看看的意思。

Helen: And I can tell you he got it wrong.

Li: 你还上网查了 Louis 的由来？

Helen: Yep, it actually means a famous warrior and it's been used by 18 French kings.

Li: 是吗？Dr Brassy 的名字不是狮子的意思，而是代表著名的战士，而且法国历史上有 18 个国王都叫 Louis。

Helen: Now back to choosing names, he thinks that people choose certain names because they sound good to them.

Li: Dr Brassy 认为名字好听不好听对很多家长来说是很重要的。

Insert

I think most people chose either on the sound of it or occasionally, people would name after a popular pop star, so if somebody nowadays is called Britney or Kylie, you can often guess when they were born, because it corresponds with that particular star's popularity.

Li: 除了好听以外，有的时候人们会跟着流行文化走，比如采用当红歌手名字为自己的孩子起名。

Helen: That's certain true. Dr Brassy mentioned Britney or Kylie as examples. We know that Britney Spears and Kylie Minogue are both very famous pop stars in the world.

Li: 所以有很多家长给他们的孩子也取名为 **Britney** 或者 **Kylie**。那么我们一听就能猜出大概这个孩子是什么时候出生的。

Helen: Now let's hear from Teri and Brenda, can you tell how they named their children?

Insert

Teri – I have children. I have one child, her name is Emma Charlotte, and she's named after her great grandmother.

Brenda – one of them I liked the name Kimberly, I had heard it on the television, and other one I liked the name Julian at that time, because there were Julian, Justin and Jason. And I just thought Julian was just quite a nice name.

Li: Have you got the answers? Teri 的女儿叫做 Emma Charlotte, 继承了她外祖母的名字, her great grandmother.

Helen: And Brenda has two children, one girl and one boy.

Li: Brenda 给她女儿取名为 Kimberley, 因为她在电视上听到了这个名字觉得不错。

Helen: And Brenda named her son Julian after picking out the name from a choice of three.

Li: 是的, 当初 Brenda 有 3 个选择, 都是字母 J 打头的, Julian, Justin 还有 Jason. 她最喜欢的是 Julian.

Li: 好了, 希望今天我们回答了 Haoran 朋友有关英国人怎样取名的问题。那么第二个问题怎样给自己起一个好听又独特的名字, 我们在以前的节目中也曾作过回答。

Helen: You can find answers to other Ask About Questions on our website.

Li: 我们的网址是 www.bbcchina.com.cn, 然后点击英语教学。谢谢收听, 我们下次节目再见。

Helen: Join us next time. Bye bye.