

## BBC Learning English – Audio Programme

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### Swans 天鹅

**Chen Li:** 大家好, 欢迎收听 BBC Learning English. 我是 Chen Li.

**Helen:** Hello, I'm Helen.

**Chen Li:** 说起天鹅 swans, 大家肯定会联想到高贵这个词。

**Helen:** Elegance

**Chen Li:** 还有优雅

**Helen:** Grace

**Chen Li:** 在英国很多的公园和河流都能看到天鹅。

**Helen:** And in recent years, we've seen a big increase in the numbers of swans across the country.

**Chen Li:** 但是令人难以想象的是, 这么美丽的鸟现在竟然威胁了生态环境, 被视为害虫一类。

**Helen:** So some people feel that swans are becoming a danger to other river life.

**Chen Li:** 那为什么天鹅造成了这么大的威胁呢?

**Helen:** To answer this question, here is Paul from the Salmon and Trout Association.

**Chen Li:** Paul 是三文鱼和鳟鱼协会的发言人, 他提到问题之一是天鹅对水草的危害, 影响了整个河域的生态平衡。

### Insert

*What happens is the swans come along and in deep water, they just graze on it, that's no problem. It's quite resilient and it'll come back. The problem is in low water, they'll eat it right down to the roots and they'll kill it off.*

**Helen:** So if the water level is deep enough, swans will just graze on the water plant.

**Chen Li:** Graze 是个动词, 意思吃草, 天鹅也喜欢吃水草。这些水草提供了鱼的藏身之地以及它们的食物来源。

**Helen:** Grazing is fine in deep water, because the water plant is resilient, that means it's tough and will grow back.

**Chen Li:** **Resilient** 意思是容易恢复，有很强的生命力。不过如果水位降低了的话，水草就难逃天鹅之口了。

**Helen:** **That's right. In low water, swans will eat it right down to the roots and kill it off.**

**Chen Li:** 把草根都吃光了 **right down to the roots**, 这样水草肯定活不了, **kill it off**.

### Insert

*The problem here is more (that there is) not enough water in the river. Although it's difficult to believe that today with all this flood water coming down. That's the real issue. We need more water in the river to provide the depth for fish and birds to coexist side by side.*

**Chen Li:** Paul 说真正的问题是水位下降，水量不够。

**Helen:** We need more water in the river.

**Chen Li:** 如果水深了，天鹅也就吃不到草根了，这样水草还有生存的机会。

**Helen:** So fish and birds can coexist side by side. Coexist means to live together at the same time or at the same place.

**Chen Li:** 共同生存 coexist.

**Helen:** So it seems that it's not really the swans' fault that the river life is under threat. They've been unfairly blamed.

**Chen Li:** 是啊，我也觉得把天鹅说成是害虫一类好像说不过去。

**Helen:** Let's hear from Graham who works for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, RSPB.

### Insert

*The amount of water being taken out of the system is unsustainable, and also the amount of pollutants from washing machines and from farmland run-off coming into these rivers are also causing problems. So yes, let's look at the problems swans are causing, but let's look at the much bigger environmental picture too.*

**Helen:** Graham says what people must do is to look at the whole problem.

**Chen Li:** 问题不能只看一部分，要看整个问题才能看清楚根源。

**Helen:** And this whole low water level problem is because too much water has been taken out of the river.

**Chen Li:** Take out 拿走了，取走了。人类用水用的太多了，河流当中的水供不应求。

**Helen:** And this unsustainable. Here it means it's not possible to keep the water supply going for much longer.

**Chen Li:** 无法维持下去的 unsustainable.

**Helen:** And other problems include pollutants from washing machines and farms.

**Chen Li:** 污染源 **pollutants**, 来自家庭和农场的水污染都对河流的生态平衡造成了很大的威胁。

不过在我们的节目结束之前，我想确认一下在英国是不是所有的天鹅都是属于女王的？

**Insert**

*That is historically the case, but these days all swans are protected under the wildlife and countryside act.*

**Chen Li:** 知道了，以前所有英国的天鹅都属于皇室，不过现在它们都受到法律保护了。

**Helen:** Swans are protected by law. Well, that's all from us today. Join us next time for more interesting stories from Britain.

**Chen Li:** 下次再会。

**Helen:** Bye bye.