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Food Miles 食物里程

Paul: Hello and welcome to BBC Learning English. I'm Paul.

Yang Li: 大家好，我是杨莉。

Paul: Today, we are going to talk about food miles and its environmental impact.

Yang Li: 食物里程及其对环境的影响。 But first, what do you mean by food miles, Paul?

Paul: Well, it refers to the mileage that food travels before it reaches the consumer.

Yang Li: 所谓食物里程，就是指食物从产地到消费者手中的距离。 Mileage 距离； consumer 消费者。

Paul: These days, I think a lot of young British consumers are making a conscious effort to reduce their food miles when they go shopping.

Yang Li: To be conscious of food miles 具有食物里程意识。 Let's ask this young lady just coming out of a food store:

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Yes, when I go to the supermarket, I quite often – if I'm looking at what I'm buying – I try and buy things that, if not that come from the country, then at least come from not too far away. I feel really bad when I buy carrots from Israel when you can grow them in your back garden.

Yang Li: She sounds like she is doing all the right things with food miles, doesn't she?

Paul: Well, she can't always buy things from England, but she is trying to buy things from not too far away.

Yang Li: 她在选购食物的时候，至少会选择不是从太远的地方来运到英国来的， from not too far away.

Paul: She feels bad if she buys carrots from Israel.

Yang Li: 以色列的胡萝卜。 That's because people living in a house can easily grow them in their back garden 后花园。

Paul: But there is a practical concern when people shop for food: the price.

Yang Li: 请大家注意听下面这两个同表示价格的词语。



Paul: The expensive ranges 高档食物; the value ranges 低档食物。

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I think in the largest supermarkets - I know they are always trying to promote the fact that they are using local foods; but I tend to find that it's the expensive ranges that tend to be from England and then all the value range always comes from a country far away.

Paul: Locally produced food is more expensive; expensive ranges; whereas imported food tends to be cheaper: the value ranges.

Yang Li: But how about restaurants buying large quantities of food for their business? Are they aware of food miles?

Paul: Well, we visited a vegetarian restaurant which is called 'Food for Thought' - '思想食粮', 这个词不错。

Yang Li: A vegetarian restaurant 这家素餐馆的老板; Vanessa 欣然接受我们的采访:

Insert

I am aware of food miles. We have a problem, because of the volume of vegetables that we require and the variety that we require, it's quite difficult to minimise, as much as we would like, food miles. Because it depends on the availability of different things at different times.

Yang Li: 她说, 虽然有食物里程的意识, 但由于餐馆对数量品种的需求大, 所以很难把食品里程缩小到最低程度。不同季节, 瓜果蔬菜的供应水平不同。 Now let me test you on the following expressions from Chinese into English:

Yang Li: 食物里程。

Paul: Food miles.

Yang Li: 数量和品种。

Paul: The volume and the variety.

Yang Li: 把食品里程降到最低程度。

Paul: Minimise food miles.

Yang Li: 不同瓜果在不同季节的供货情况。

Paul: The availability of different things at different times.

Yang Li: Well done. Now let's listen a bit more from that clip. Keep this question in mind:

Paul: Which market do they prefer in their selection of food?

Insert

In the selection of food we choose, we choose predominantly what is produced in the English market first, secondly from the European market, but then thirdly we have to use overseas.

Yang Li: Did you get it? Which market do they prefer?

Paul: The correct answer is: the English market.

Yang Li: 英国市场。

Paul: They choose predominantly what is produced in England. Predominantly.

Yang Li: 占主体的。

Paul: First the English market.

Yang Li: 首先是英国市场。

Paul: Secondly the European market.

Yang Li: 其次是欧洲市场。

Paul: And thirdly the overseas.

Yang Li: 海外，这里指欧洲以外的海外市场。 Well, Paul, after all this discussion about food miles, do you think you are clearer about the environmental impact of transporting food now?

Paul: Definitely. I will give you an example: one kilo of kiwi fruit from New Zealand to the UK would have 1,000 grams of CO2 emissions.

Yang Li: 从新西兰运输一公斤猕猴桃到英国，会排放一千克二氧化碳， kiwi fruit.

Paul: Whereas one kilo of kiwi fruit, locally produced and consumed in New Zealand, would only produce 50 grams of CO2 into the air.

Yang Li: 如果在新西兰自产自销，那么二氧化碳的排放量却只有50克，嗯，相差整整20倍！

Paul: When people talk about climate change, we don't always relate it to food miles, but there is a connection.

Yang Li: I agree. 听众朋友，你对此有何感想呢？我是杨莉。

Paul: And I'm Paul.

Yang Li: 再会。

Paul: Bye.

