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## Newcastle Accent/ 备战英语口语: 纽卡斯尔篇

**Wang Fei:** 大家好, 欢迎收听 **Question and Answer of the Week** 你问我答节目! 我是王飞。在今天的节目中, 我们要回答一个很多中国听众都很关心的问题: 英语的不同口音。  
**First of all, let's listen to the question from Ben.**

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*Hi. I'm Ben from Handan, China. I'm going to study in Newcastle in June. I've learned English for almost 11 years, but I find accents in Britain vary a lot and are really difficult to understand sometimes. So how can I get ready for that before departure, especially for the Newcastle accent?*

**Wang Fei:** 首先祝贺 **Ben** 很快就要到英国东北部的 **Newcastle** 去上学。**Ben** 在来英国之前, 想了解英国不同的英语口语, 特别是 **Newcastle** 的口音, 并且希望得到如何听懂不同英语口语的建议。**In order to answer his question, I've invited an English language expert from BBC Learning English to host this programme with me.**

**Catherine:** Hello everyone. My name's Catherine and I am from Newcastle. And I'm now working for BBC Learning English.

**Wang Fei:** Catherine, you are from Newcastle, but your accent is quite soft. I can hardly notice.

**Catherine:** All right. Let me say it again. Hello everyone. My name's Catherine and I am from Newcastle. And I'm now working for BBC Learning English.

**Wang Fei:** This is a perfect example of the Newcastle accent. Catherine 不但是语言专家, 而且来自纽卡斯尔。所以我邀请她来回答 **Ben** 的问题。**Catherine, I think I share Ben's idea about different accents in the UK. When I first arrived in London, I found that people were not speaking the same English as I learned in China. It was really frustrating. I always asked myself. "Are they speaking English?!"**

**Catherine:** Yes. I understand. People do speak with different accents in Britain. British people speak with different accents and people from other countries also speak differently.

**Wang Fei:** Yes. But is there any type of Standard English in Britain, like the Chinese Putong Hua?

**Catherine:** Well yes there is. In Britain, we've got RP; that means Received Pronunciation. And it's the accent of Standard English in England. But if you speak perfect RP, people will probably laugh at you in England. It sounds old-fashioned and too formal. I think people in Britain like speaking naturally with their different accents, because accents are also their identities.

**Wang Fei:** 我明白了，原来英国人和中国人对语言的要求不太一样。中国人比较在乎口音的问题，而英国人对于口音就觉得无所谓。所以才造成了英国人的口音五花八门。But how can English learners in another country understand different English accents?

**Catherine:** Well. First of all, if your English is very good, you'll have less difficulty in understanding the different English accents. So, try to improve your English first.

**Wang Fei:** Catherine 给我们的第一个建议就是要首先提高自己的英语水平。如果自己的英语水平高了，自然就会更容易地应付各种口音了。

**Catherine:** That's correct. Secondly, you should always expect to encounter different English accents in an English-speaking country. So it's important to listen to different accents when you're studying English.

**Wang Fei:** Catherine 给的第二个建议就是在学习英语的时候，应该注意多听不同的英语口语。一旦熟悉了就容易多了。

**Catherine:** Yes. And finally and most importantly, you should have a positive attitude towards English accents. Don't feel afraid of them or annoyed by accents. Try to accept them and enjoy them. The more accents you listen to, the better your command of English will be.

**Wang Fei:** 最后一点，也是最重要的一点就是要对不同的英语口语有正确的态度。不要觉得害怕或者心烦，而是要接受它。我希望 Ben 还有其他准备来英国留学或者工作的朋友，能够接受 Catherine 的建议。来英国之前就做好准备，这会让你在英国的生活更加轻松。

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**Wang Fei:** Welcome back. 我们刚才谈论了英国的不同口音问题。接下来，我们说一个具体的英语口语，Newcastle 口音。Catherine, what are the characteristics of the Newcastle accent?

**Catherine:** Actually, the Newcastle accent has a special name: it's called Geordie. Well, first of all, let's hear from a speaker with a Newcastle accent and I'll analyse it afterwards.

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*There's a small lake on the hill. The other day, Joe and I climbed on the hill and we found a dead crow near the lake on the grass. It looked a bit scary. We were very curious about that and wanted to find out the reasons causing the death of the crow.*

Catherine: If you listen carefully, you will find some features of the Newcastle accent. For example, people tend to elongate vowels. So lake becomes lake and Joe gets longer, it becomes Jo...

Wang Fei: Joe not Jo...

Catherine: Yes and also people from Newcastle tend to change the sound /a:/ into /æ/, so the word grass becomes grass.

Wang Fei: Grass, not grass...

Wang Fei: No. And also you'll notice that the intonation is quite up and down. It's more sing-song than it is in southern English.

Wang Fei: 看来不同的英语口语，主要区别在于对元音的发音，并且语调也略有不同。Newcastle 口音的抑扬顿挫感比较大，听起来像唱歌的感觉。

Catherine: Now let's listen to another English speaker reading it. And please pay attention to the vowels and intonation.

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*There is a small lake on the hill. The other day, Joe and I climbed on the hill and we found a dead crow near the lake on the grass. It looked a bit scary. We were very curious about that and wanted to find out the reasons causing the death of the crow.*

Wang Fei: 大家听出不同之处了吗？Catherine, I think actually the difference is not *that* big.

Catherine: Yes. Accents are different in one way or another, but generally they're similar and they shouldn't be a big obstacle in studying English. Many Chinese students worry about their Chinese accent and they try very hard to get rid of it. It takes a lot of time and energy to do this, but from my point of view, it's just not that necessary.

Wang Fei: Catherine 再次提醒大家，不要为了学习所谓的标准英语而花费太多时间和精力。应该注意提高自身的英语能力，同时多听不同口音的英语。我希望我们的节目回答了 Ben 的问题。

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Wang Fei: Catherine, you are from Newcastle. Will you please briefly introduce this city to our Chinese listeners?

Catherine: Sure, I'd love to. Newcastle's a lovely and very famous city in the UK. So if you're going there, first of all, I suggest you pay a visit to the old castle from which the city gets its name.

Wang Fei: The old castle. 纽卡斯尔城堡，Newcastle 这个城市的名字正是因为这个古老的城堡而得名。



- Catherine: And another attraction is the River Tyne, the river in Newcastle. And it's a very nice experience to have a walk along the riverside.
- Wang Fei: River Tyne. 泰恩河。沿河边漫步，你会饱览纽卡斯尔市的美景。
- Catherine: And in Newcastle, we've also got a Chinatown. It's not a very big community, but it has a giant gate. And there are Chinese New Year celebrations every year.
- Wang Fei: 在纽卡斯尔还有一个中国城。这个中国城虽然不大，但是有一个巨大的牌坊。去纽卡斯尔，一定要去那里的 Chinatown 看一看。
- Catherine: Lastly, I'd like to say that Newcastle is famous in the UK for being a very friendly city. People there are warm and friendly.
- Wang Fei: 纽卡斯尔还是一个非常友好的城市。After listening to Catherine's introduction, I myself also want to visit Newcastle.
- Catherine: Great. You'll be very welcome, Wang Fei!
- Wang Fei: Before we wrap up today's programme, Catherine will you please teach me some useful and authentic Newcastle dialect phrases?
- Catherine: Sure. Haway!
- Wang Fei: Haway?
- Catherine: Haway means come on in Newcastle dialect.
- Wang Fei: Oh, haway means come on. That's interesting.
- Catherine: Sure. That's lush!
- Wang Fei: That's lush?
- Catherine: Yes. That's lush means that's fantastic, that's brilliant.
- Wang Fei: Oh I understand. Can I say Newcastle is really lush?
- Catherine: Yes. Perfect, well done.
- Wang Fei: Thank you Catherine. I will use them when I am in Newcastle. 在节目最后，我还想提醒大家，如果有英语学习方面的问题，请给我们发电子邮件。我们的邮件地址是 [chinaelt@bbc.co.uk](mailto:chinaelt@bbc.co.uk).
- Catherine: Yes. We love hearing from you and answering any of your English language questions!
- Wang Fei: Bye!
- Catherine: Bye!

