

BBC Learning English – Q & A of the Week

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Q & A of the Week: Cheers 谢了

Jo: Hello, I'm Jo and this is Feifei...

Feifei: Hello Jo.

Jo: And we're here to answer one of your questions about the English language.

Feifei: 是的，在你问我答节目中我们会解答大家提出的关于英语学习方面的问题，不论是语法，语音还是词汇只要你问我们就答。不过可一定要记住我们邮箱的地址，然后发来你的问题，地址就是 questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk.

Jo: Yes, questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk – and we'll be repeating that later for you as well. Now, today's question is actually from Jo Jo from China who is studying in the UK. Now, I like your choice of name Jo Jo!

Feifei: Yes, Jo is of course a great name – Jo Jo even better eh?

Jo: That's right. Absolutely! Anyway she emailed us to say she has found most of the youths or young people in the UK say cheers instead of thank you – is there any special meaning connected to that?

Feifei: Jo Jo 注意到英国年轻的一代现在经常用 cheers 这个词来代替 thank you 谢谢这个短语，any ideas Jo?

Jo: Well, I think we have to say first that it's not just young people who say cheers – everyone uses it – and it is quite specific to British English.

Feifei: 是的，还有 cheers 这个词你只能在英式英语里听得到，so Americans wouldn't say it would they, Jo?

Jo: No not really. So before we find out why we say it – let's have a few examples shall we of when it might be used.

Example

A: Did you get my email about the meeting?

B: Yes and I've replied and made sure that everyone knows about it.

A: Cheers.

A: *Two teas please.*

B: *Here you are.*

A: *Cheers.*

Feifei: 我们可以在大多数情况下把 **cheers** 这个词当作 **thank you** 来使用，不过用 **cheers** 会不会很不正式呢？会不会很随便呢？**Is it really informal Jo?**

Jo: **It is quite informal but we can still use it in formal situations – so with your boss, when talking to someone you don't know so well. In the UK formal situations are often quite informal anyway.**

Feifei: Jo 说在英国即使是在一个正是的场合，大家也都比较随便，所以不论你是在和老板或是一个陌生人说话的时候，都可以使用 **cheers** 这个词。**So why do British people say it?**

Jo: **Well I've tried to do some research into this Feifei, and I think it's a greeting that's has changed over the years. So many years ago, British people used to say 'good cheer to you' or 'be of good cheer' which was just a greeting wishing you all the best.**

Feifei: 原来很多年前在英国，人们见面打招呼的时候会讲 **good cheer to you** 或者 **be of good cheer**。那么时间推移，英式英语经过这么多年的演变直到今天人们用 **cheers** 来表示谢谢 **thank you**。

Jo: **That's probably the most likely explanation as to why we say it. Look out for the word ta as well. T.A. ta. British English speakers sometimes say ta to mean thank you – but again you wouldn't hear this in North America. Anyway we hope that answered your question Jo Jo and we hope everyone listening learned something along the way.**

Insert

questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk

Feifei: 希望你从今天的节目中学到了 **cheers** 的用法，如果你有什么问题的话，欢迎随时提问，不论是语法，词汇还是语音都可以发邮件给我们。

Jo: **That email address is questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you. Cheers for you help Feifei!**

Feifei: **Ta Jo! You're welcome!**