

BBC Learning English – Q & A of the Week

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Q & A of the Week: FAQ and Other Acronyms 英与常见缩写字

Diarmuid: Hello, and welcome to another episode of Question & Answer of the Week from BBC Learning English. I'm Diarmuid.

Feifei: 大家好，我是冯菲菲。在《你问我答》节目中我们会回答你在英语学习中遇到的难题。

Diarmuid: This week's question comes from Bing Xu, and he wants to know more about an acronym he has seen on many websites.

Feifei: Acronym 缩写字。

Diarmuid: Bing Xu's question is – what do the letters F.A.Q. stand for?

Diarmuid: Now did you notice the use of a phrasal verb there? We heard the verb 'stand for'. To stand for.

Feifei: To stand for 代表，表示，我们用这个短语来解释缩写字母代表的意思。

Diarmuid: So what about this acronym F.A.Q.? Do you know what it stands for Feifei?

Feifei: Of course I do. It stands for Frequently Asked Questions 常见问题。

Diarmuid: Frequently Asked Questions – F.A.Q. And we see that phrase most commonly on websites and sometimes in instruction manuals for devices.

Feifei: 大家可能会在很多的网站上看到 F.A.Q. 比方说在我们英语教学网上 bbcchina.com 你就可以看到你个关于英语学习的常见问题页面。

Diarmuid: So what are F.A.Q.s for then Feifei?

Feifei: Well, I would say that a F.A.Q.'s main purpose is to give information to people using the website.

Diarmuid: That's right, many websites anticipate problems that people might have using the site and prepare solutions for those questions.

Feifei: 这样一来网站的工作人员就不需要单独的来回答每个网友的来信了。

Diarmuid: So there it is. F.A.Q. stands for Frequently Asked Questions.

STING

Feifei: 各位正在收听由 BBC 英语教学为大家带来的《你问我答》节目，今天我们一起来谈论缩写 acronyms.

Diarmuid: Acronyms are commonly used in English as they are a useful way to abbreviate longer phrases or the names of institutions.

Feifei: Abbreviate 是动词，表示缩写，简写的意思；abbreviation 是它的名词形式。所以在英语中我们会用缩写字来代替简写长的单词短语。

Diarmuid: To abbreviate – to make something shorter. Abbreviation – a shortened form of a longer word or phrase.

Feifei: So what other acronyms are commonly used in English these days?

Diarmuid: Good question Feifei. Let's listen to some people using other acronyms and see if we know what they mean.

Example

Today I spoke to a V.I.P.

Diarmuid: Today I spoke to a V.I.P. V.I.P. – Do you know what that stands for, Fuffy?

Feifei: V.I.P. That's an easy one – V.I.P. stands for Very Important Person. Like me!

Diarmuid: You're a very important person, are you? Let's see if you are correct.

Example

V.I.P – very important person.

Feifei: I was right. V.I.P. stands for very important person 非常重要的人。

Diarmuid: Well done Feifei, even if that was a very easy one.

Feifei: Ok, Diarmuid, if you thought that was easy then listen to this woman and tell me what acronym she uses and what it means.

Example

A.S.A.P. or ASAP

Diarmuid: That sounds to me like she is saying A.S.A.P or ASAP.

Feifei: That's right, but what does it stand for? I'll give you an example sentence: We need to finish this programme A.S.A.P. because we have an important meeting in ten minutes.

Diarmuid: I know the answer to this. A.S.A.P. stands for As Soon As Possible.

Feifei: As soon as possible 越快越好, 尽快。如果你需要尽快做一件事情的时候就可以用这个短语来表示越快越好 a.s.a.p.

Diarmuid: Yes, you can pronounce it A.S.A.P. or ASAP.

Feifei: 或者说: I need to get to the station A.S.A.P. because my train leaves in fifteen minutes.

Diarmuid: A.S.A.P. as soon possible.

STING

Feifei: 在英语的口语和书面用语里我们都会用到缩写字或简写, 但是现在在网络上缩写字也被广泛使用。

Diarmuid: Yes, the internet is a popular place to use acronyms and abbreviations, especially in chatrooms.

Feifei: Chatrooms 聊天室。

Diarmuid: Forums.

Feifei: 论坛。

Diarmuid: And when using instant messenger programs.

Feifei: 即时通讯工具。

Diarmuid: One of the most common acronyms used online is L.O.L.

Feifei: Let's hear an example of L.O.L. to see if you know or can guess its meaning.

Example

Woman: *I'm so going to fall on my backside when I go ice-skating.*

Man: *L.O.L. (laughs)*

Feifei: 这位男士刚才在对话的最后以笑声结尾, 一定是很好玩儿的事情吧?

Diarmuid: Yes, L.O.L. is connected with laughing. Let's see what the Great British public say L.O.L means.

Example

Well, I use L.O.L all the time for just Laugh Out Loud.

Feifei: So L.O.L stands for Laugh Out Loud 大声笑，当我们觉得一件事情很好笑时，就可以用这个缩写词。

Diarmuid: Indeed we do, but there are also some other uses of L.O.L. Let's hear some more ideas:

Example

I know LOL which kind of means many things. It can be Lots Of Love or Lots Of Laughs.

Diarmuid: So some people use L.O.L. to mean other things, such as, Lots Of Love.

Feifei: Lots of love 很爱你。

Diarmuid: Or Lots Of Laughs

Feifei: Lots of laughs 大笑。

Diarmuid: We're going to have to finish soon Feifei so why don't we learn a few common acronyms quickly now?

Feifei: Good idea. What about S.O.S.?

Diarmuid: S.O.S. Save Our Souls.

Feifei: S.O.S. 原意是拯救我们的灵魂，现在被作为一个求救信号，意思就是救命呀！

Diarmuid: U.F.O. Unidentified Flying Object.

Feifei: U.F.O. 不明飞行物，通常指的是外星人的飞船。

Diarmuid: C.E.O Chief Executive Officer.

Feifei: C.E.O 首席执行官。

Diarmuid: Well that's all for now. I hope that answers Bing Xu's question F.A.Q.s.

Feifei: 如果你有任何英语语言学习的问题的话，可以发信到 questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk. 也许你可以在节目中听到我们给你的回答。

Diarmuid: An don't forget to visit our website www.bbcchina.com.cn. You'll find new programmes there every day so come and visit A.S.A.P. Bye for now.

Feifei: See you next time.