

## BBC Learning English – Q & A of the Week

### About this script

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### 关于台词的备注:

请注意这不是广播节目的逐字稿件。本文稿可能没有体现录制、编辑过程中对节目做出的改变。

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### Q & A of the Week: Regional Dialects 地区方言

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

Feifei: 大家好，我是冯菲菲。我们在《你问我答》节目中解答你在英语语言学习过程中遇到的种种难题。

Tracy: This week's question comes from Zhu Yan who is from Wuhan, and she wants to know more about regional dialects.

### Insert

*I want to know if there are a lot of dialects in Britain. Thanks very much.*

Tracy: Ah, before we answer Zhu Yan's question, can I just ask you to remind everyone what a dialect is? And what an accent is?

Feifei: OK, a **dialect** 方言, 和官方的语言比起来, 它扩容了更多的词汇和语法规则。An **accent** 是口音, 它和方言是有区别的, 口音指的是来自一个地方, 一个国家的人或是一个社会群体对单词的发音。

Tracy: Thanks Feifei. Well now let's answer Zhu Yan's question. Yes, there are a number of languages spoken in Great Britain, several dialects and lots of accents.

Feifei: I know the main language is English but what other languages are spoken in Britain?

Tracy: Well the majority of British people speak English, about 95% of them, but some people speak a minority language 少数民族语言, and these include:

Welsh 威尔士语, which is spoken by about 500,000 people in the UK, that's about 27% of all the people that live in Wales 威尔士。

Irish Gaelic 爱尔兰的盖尔语 is spoken by about 95,000 people in the UK, who mostly live in Northern Ireland 北爱尔兰。

Scots Gaelic 苏格兰的盖尔语 is spoken by about 60,000 people in the UK, who mostly live in the Scottish highlands 苏格兰高地。

Feifei: Tracy 你是苏格兰人，那你会讲 Gaelic 吗？

Tracy: I am Scottish but unfortunately I've never learnt to speak Gaelic.

Feifei: 哦，太可惜了，我还想听听盖尔语呢！

Tracy: Well, I can't speak those languages but I managed to record a few people talking before today's programme. Can you guess what they are saying? In Welsh:

### Insert

*Dw i ddim yn deall*

Tracy: In Irish Gaelic:

### Insert

*Ní thuigim*

Tracy: In Scots Gaelic:

### Insert

*Chan eil mi 'tuigsinn*

Feifei: 他们说得是什么呀？ Didn't understand a word!

Tracy: Perhaps you understood more than you think. They were all saying: I don't understand.

Feifei: Tracy 虽然不会讲盖尔语，但是她说话的时候带有苏格兰口音。

Tracy: I don't think I have a very strong Scottish accent. Maybe you disagree.

Feifei: No, I can understand you. But if you were talking to a Scottish person would you sound different?

Tracy: I think I do sound different when I am speaking to my friends or family. My accent gets thicker and I speak in a Scottish dialect.

Feifei: Well imagine I'm one of your Scottish friends from back home. What might you say to me? Tracy 下面要讲一句苏格兰方言。

Tracy: I might say I dinnae ken wit ye mean.

Feifei: Wow! Is that English? I dinnae ken wit ye mean.

Tracy: Yes, it's English but I used some different grammar and words.

- Feifei: 刚刚这句话是 Tracy 她们那儿的方言，她说 **I dinnae ken wit ye mean** 思就是 **I don't know what you mean** 我不明白你的意思。
- Tracy: **Remember, a regional dialect is just a form of a language used by people from a particular region or place.**
- Feifei: 各位正在收听的是《你问我答》节目，今天让我们一起来谈论地方方言 **regional dialects**.
- Tracy: **We've just been discussing the Scottish dialect and we learned the word 'dinnae'.**
- Feifei: 是用苏格兰的 **a colloquial** 口语的说法，意思是 **don't**.
- Tracy: **And 'ken'.**
- Feifei: **To ken** 和 **to know** 的意思类似，就是知道什么事情。
- Tracy: **These words might not be understood by someone from a different part of the UK.**
- Feifei: 在英国一个地方使用的口语化单词和短语在另一个地方讲不一定有人听得懂，因为这些语言非常地方化。
- Tracy: **Here are some examples of how people might greet each other in their regional dialects.**
- Feifei: 下面我们会听到不同的人用各自的方言打招呼问候。

### **Insert**

*Al'reet lass?*

*What's the craic?*

*Wassup?*

- Feifei: **Oh wow, their accents were really different and they used some words and phrases that I've never heard before.**
- Tracy: **Can you remember any of them?**
- Feifei: **No, can I hear them again?**
- Tracy: **Let's listen to them one by one.**

### **Insert**

*Al'reet lass?*

- Feifei: 他好像说 **al'reet**.

Tracy: Exactly, it's similar to alright. They're asking: are you alright?

**Insert**

*What's the craic?*

Feifei: 他好像说 craic.

Tracy: Exactly, it's similar to asking: what's been happening?

**Insert**

*Wassup?*

Feifei: 她好像说 wassup.

Tracy: Exactly, it's similar to asking: what's up?

Feifei: So which is the best regional dialect to learn?

Tracy: In my opinion, there isn't one top dialect.

Feifei: 没有一个最好的方言。

Tracy: It is simply important that you are clear and that you learn to recognise which phrases are colloquial and which are standard English.

Feifei: Well I think I 'ken' a little more about the different dialects spoken in the UK. I hope we have answered Zhu Yan's question. 如果你在英语学习过程中遇到任何难题都可以给我们发邮件，邮箱地址是 [questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk](mailto:questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk).

Tracy: And don't forget to visit our website [www.bbcchina.com.cn](http://www.bbcchina.com.cn) where you can listen to a variety of different dialects and accents in our programmes. Bye for now.

Feifei: See you next time.