BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Question and Answer of the Week 你问我答表示程度的单词: strong、powerful、heavy



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Buli

大家好,欢迎收听 BBC 英语教学的"你问我答"栏目。I'm Buli.

Phil

And I'm Phil. We have a question from one of our listeners.

Question

我对于英语中用于描述"程度"的搭配有些困惑。比如,想表示"一杯浓咖啡"是"a strong coffee"而不是"a powerful coffee",而表示"大雨"则是"heavy rain"而不用"strong rain"。这其中有没有什么规律,能否讲解一下?

Phil

This question is about one of the hardest things to learn about English – collocations. Collocations don't really follow rules, but there are some patterns that could be useful.

Buli

确实。英语中的固定搭配"collocations"并不总是有规律可循。并且,不同搭配之间常常没有对错之分,而更在于人们的使用习惯。有时,人们还会刻意使用并不常见的搭配方式来强调或暗示自己的意思。这些原因都为非英语母语者的学习带来了一定的困难。本期节目让我们一起来看看节目中的三个单词在搭配时具有怎样的特点。

Phil

Let's start by looking at flavours – like coffee. As mentioned in the question, we commonly use 'strong' to talk about an intense flavour. Listen to these examples.

Examples

I always leave the tea bag in the cup for a few minutes. I like my tea strong. (我总是会把茶包在杯子里多放几分钟。我喜欢喝浓茶。)

I don't like to put raw onion in salad. It tastes too strong! (我不喜欢在沙拉里加生洋葱。这样吃起来辣味太重了!)

Buli

正如例句所展示的,英语中并不常用"powerful(强大的)"来描述"茶或咖啡等饮品的口感或浓度"。但是,有时我们依然可以用"powerful"来形容食物的口味,意思是"味道刺激的,刺鼻的"。这个用法并不常见,通常暗示"食物的味道异常强烈和刺激"。来听一组例句。

Examples

Homegrown garlic has a powerful flavour. You only need a little bit.

(自家种植的大蒜味道非常浓烈。你只需要加一点点就行。)

Chilli gives your cooking a powerful and hot flavour.

(辣椒会为你的菜品添加刺激和辛辣的味道。)

Phil

The question also asks about the use of 'heavy' to talk about intensity. We see it a lot with weather, particularly things that fall out of the sky – like rain or snow. Listen to these examples.

Examples.

The heavy rain has caused flooding all across the city.

(这场大雨导致城里到处都被水淹没了。)

Heavy snow has blocked all the roads in the city.

(大雪把城里所有的路都封了。)

Buli

在用于描述天气时,"heavy(大量的,严重的)"不仅可以修饰从天而降的雨雪等等,还可以用来形容大雾"heavy fog"和猛烈的暴风雨"heavy storm"等等。当我们在使用"heavy"时,通常暗示"大量的某物产生了负面的影响"。比如,我们可以说"heavy traffic(拥堵的交通)"或者"heavy workload(繁重的工作)"。再来听两个例句。

Examples

The traffic was so heavy this morning. I was really late to work.

(今早的交通太拥堵了。我上班迟到了很久。)

There was a heavy storm last night that caused a lot of damage.

(昨晚来了一场猛烈的暴风雨,造成了许多破坏。)

Phil

So, when you're learning new words, it's often useful to learn common collocations together, and it's also good to have a look and see if you notice any words that seem to appear together a lot.

Buli

是的。当我们在学习新单词时,可以尝试了解和它相关的固定搭配。这样不但可以加深我们对这个单词含义的理解,还可以让我们掌握更多、更准确的固定搭配。就比如本期节目中提到的三个和"某事的强烈、严重程度"相关的单词"strong"、"powerful"和"heavy"就分别具有不同的常见搭配方式。在形容食物的味道时,"strong"强调"口味浓烈",而"powerful"通常指"刺激性强的味道"。"Heavy"有"大量的,严重的"的意思,暗示"大量的某物可能造成负面的影响",常用于形容天气、交通或工作等等。

Phil

Remember, if you have a question that you'd like us to answer, you can email us too at questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk

Buli

你也可以通过微博向我们提问,我们的微博账号是"BBC英语教学"。Bye!

Phil

Bye!