

# 新冠病毒 vs 其它流行病 Coronavirus vs other pandemics

Hello. This is 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English. I'm Neil.

大家好。这里是 BBC 学习英语栏目的六分钟英语。我是内尔。

And I'm Georgina.

我是乔治娜。

I've really had enough of this coronavirus, Georgina!

我真的受够了这个新冠病毒了，乔治娜！

People getting sick, losing their jobs and to top it off, the pubs in some places are closed!

人们生病，失去工作，这还不够，某些地方的酒吧都关了！

I know it's bad, Neil, but compared to historical pandemics like the Spanish flu and economic crises like the Great Depression, coronavirus isn't actually so bad.

我知道情况很糟糕，内尔，但是跟历史上的流行病相比，例如西班牙流感和像大萧条那样的经济危机，新冠病毒其实没有那么糟糕。

You've got to look at the bigger picture—the long-term, overall view of a complex situation.

你要有大局观——对复杂情况的长期整体的视角。

Hmm, somehow that's not very comforting, Georgina!

嗯，听上去并没有那么安慰人，乔治娜！

But tell me more.

但是再跟我说说。

Well, we've heard lots from politicians and scientists about the spread of coronavirus but a historian's view might give us a fresh look at the bigger picture—and maybe a more hopeful point of view.

嗯，我们听了很多来自于政治家和科学家对于新冠病毒传播的观点，但是历史学家的观点可能会让我们对大局有一个全新的了解——也许是更有希望的观点。

So in this programme, we'll be hearing from historian, Peter Frankopan, author of bestselling book, The Silk Roads.

所以在本期节目中，我们会听畅销书《丝绸之路》的作者，历史学家皮特·弗兰科潘的观点。

Ah, the title of that book, The Silk Roads, reminds me of my quiz question, Georgina.

啊，那本书的标题，《丝绸之路》让我想起了我们的问题，乔治娜。

Are you ready to have a go?

你准备好回答了吗？

## 添加的词汇

### lethal

英: /'li:θ(ə)/ 美: /'liθl/

adj. 致命的，致死的 n. 致死因子



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I'll try, Neil, but the only thing I know about the Silk Roads is that they were the ancient routes along which people travelled the Earth.

我试试，内尔，但是我对丝绸之路的唯一了解就是它们是人们游览世界的古代路线。

Very good, Georgina!

非常棒，乔治娜！

Not just people but also ideas, religions, languages and diseases travelled from place to place along these ancient roads.

不仅仅是人，还有思想、宗教、语言和疾病沿着这些古代的道路从一个地方走到另一个地方。

But where exactly did the Silk Roads run?

但是丝绸之路的确切路线是哪里？

That's my quiz question.

这就是我的问题。

Was it a) From South America to Europe, b) From Africa to Asia, or c) From Asia to Europe?

是 A. 从南美到欧洲，B. 从非洲到亚洲，还是 C. 亚洲到欧洲？

I'll say, c) from Asia to Europe.

我要选 C. 从亚洲到欧洲。

OK, Georgina, we'll find out later if that's right.

好的，乔治娜，我们稍后会揭晓是否回答正确。

What's certain is that disease passing from place to place and from animals to humans, is nothing new.

可以确定的是疾病在各地传播，从动物传到人身上，这并不是什么新鲜事。

Listen to historian, Peter Frankopan, being interviewed for the BBC programme, HARDTalk.

请听正在接受 BBC 节目《HARDTalk》采访的历史学家皮特·弗兰科潘的说法。

See if you can hear the reason he gives for how diseases are spread.

看看你能否听出来他说的疾病传播的方式。

Well, it's a fairly predictable thing a historian would say but change and widespread diseases are nothing new.

疾病的改变和广泛传播并不是什么新鲜事，历史学家会这么说完全不奇怪。

Our ancestors all lived through big pandemics, some of them which were much more **lethal** than coronavirus.

我们的祖先挺过了很多大流行病，其中有一些比新冠病毒还要致命。

And one of the products of living together in high-density populations, going back as far as historical records go, is you find there are transitions of disease from animals to human beings and they inflict damage.

回顾历史，生活在高密度人口中的一个结果就是疾病会从动物身上传播到人类身上，从而人类会遭受破坏。

And that damage typically you measure in mortality rates but then the economic and social consequences of disease.

而这种破坏通常是用死亡率来衡量的，然后是疾病的经济和社会影响。

There's a lot of examples in history to learn from.

历史中有很多例子可以学习。

Compared to coronavirus, other big pandemics in history have been much more **lethal**-dangerous enough to cause death.

跟新冠病毒相比，历史上其他的大流行病要致死得多——危险得足以引发死亡。

One reason Peter gives for this is the high-density of populations, meaning people living together in buildings very close to one another.

皮特给出的一个原因就是高密度人口，指的是人们住在彼此离得很近的建筑中。

In olden days, this included living together with animals, making the transmission of disease to humans much easier.

在过去，这还包括跟动物一起居住，使得疾病更容易传播到人身上。

Right, Georgina, like the flea-infested rats which spread the plague across Europe in the Middle Ages.

例如在中世纪的欧洲传播瘟疫的长满了跳蚤的老鼠。

But times change and today most people live in very different ways from people living centuries ago.

但是时代发生了变化，如今大部分人跟几个世纪以前的人的生活方式很不一样。

So how can we explain the spread of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020?

那么我们要怎么解释 2020 年新冠疫情的传播呢？

And why have some countries been able to deal with it so much better than others?

以及为什么有些国家处理得比其他国家要好得多？

Here's Peter Frankopan again, talking on the BBC's HARDTalk.

以下还是皮特·弗兰科潘在 BBC 的《HARDTalk》上发言。

Listen and see if you can spot his answer.

请听并看看你能否发现他的答案。

Well, your geographical position in the world matters- if you're, if you're geographically peripheral like Scandinavia or New Zealand, then you have a different dose, a different level of connectivity with the rest of the world.

嗯，你在世界的地理位置很重要——如果你，如果你像斯堪的纳维亚或新西兰那样在外围地区，那么你与世界的其他部分连接的程度不一样。

If you're a country like the UK which is, you know, the centre of all global flight routes, then the incidence of people coming backwards and forwards, in and out of your country-you're going to spread and catch much quicker.

如果你像英国一样是所有国际航线的中心，那么人们会来来往往，在你的国家进进出出——那么你的传播和感染就会快得多。

The scorecard is very mixed and there've been some democratic systems that have been extremely resilient and robust at anticipating it and some that have got it wrong.

影响的因素有很多，而且一直有一些民主体系对它预测应对得极其有韧性和顽强，而有一些则估计错误。

According to Peter, countries which are geographically peripheral-at the periphery or edge of things, instead of at the centre, are less at risk.

根据皮特的话，处于外围地区——在事物的边缘——的国家而不是中心地区，那么风险就小得多。

The UK, on the other hand, is at the centre of global flight routes-the connecting flight paths used by airplanes.

而英国是全球航线——飞机使用的连接航路——的中心。

Visiting air passengers who spread the disease are one of the reasons behind Britain's dose of coronavirus.

传播疾病的坐飞机的乘客是英国遭受新冠病毒的原因之一。

Here, dose is used as an informal way of saying an unpleasant experience.

这里的 dose 是表示不愉快的经历的非正式表达。

So from a historical viewpoint, this current pandemic doesn't seem so bad-far fewer people have died than in previous pandemics and with the arrival of a vaccine, the end is almost in sight.

所以从历史角度来看，当前的流行病看起来似乎没那么糟糕——死亡人数远低于之前的流行病，而且随着疫苗的到来，这场疫情的结束已经指日可待了。

Hmm, I guess so, Georgina, but for now at least the pubs are still closed in some places!

嗯，我想是的，乔治娜，但是至少现在有些地方的酒吧还是关着的！

Anyway, it was interesting to hear how diseases have been spreading since ancient times.

不管怎样，能够听到疾病从古代以来是怎么传播的还是很有趣的。

On routes like the Silk Roads, you mean?

你指的是像丝绸之路这样的路径吗？

So what was the answer to your quiz question, Neil?

所以你今天问题的答案是什么，内尔？

Was I right?

我答对了吗？

You said the ancient Silk Roads ran, c) from Asia to Europe which was...correct!

你说古代的丝绸之路是 C. 从亚洲到欧洲，回答正确！

Sounds like another example of looking at the bigger picture-the long-term, overall view of a complex situation.

听上去是另一个从大局——复杂情况的长期整体的看法——着眼的例子。

Let's recap the other vocabulary too.

我们也来回顾其它词汇吧。

Diseases can be **lethal**-extremely dangerous, even causing death.

疾病可以是致命的——极其危险，甚至会引发死亡。

A high-density population is a population living very closely together.

高密度人口指的是住得非常近的人口。

Peripheral countries may be less at risk from pandemics because they are at the periphery or edge of events, instead of at the centre.

外围国家传染病流行的风险可能更小，因为它们处于事物的边缘而不是中心。

So somewhere with fewer flight routes-the connecting pathways followed by airplanes, might get a less serious dose-or unpleasant experience, of coronavirus.

所以航线越少的地方，受到新冠病毒的影响——或者说不好的经历——就越不严重。

Well, I hope this experience hasn't been too unpleasant and you get a chance to use some of this vocabulary chatting to your friends about trending stories in the news.

嗯，我希望这种经历还没有太糟糕，并且你能有机会使用其中一些词汇跟你的朋友谈论新闻中流行的故事。

And if you like topical discussions and want to learn how to use the vocabulary found in headlines, why not check out our News Review podcast?

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Goodbye for now!

再见！

Bye!

再见！

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