

## 英语真的是英语吗？ Is English really English?

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. ... Gōdne mergen! Mé lícap pé tó métanne!...

我是乔治娜。早上好，很高兴见到你。

I beg your pardon, Neil?

不好意思，内尔？

Is something stuck in your throat? !

有什么东西卡在你喉咙里了吗？

Are you speaking a foreign language?

你在说外语吗？

Ha! Well, actually Georgina, I was saying, 'Good morning, pleased to meet you' in English - but not the English you and I speak.

哈！其实乔治娜，我刚刚是在用英语说“早上好，很高兴见到你”——但是不是用你和我说的英语。

That was Anglo-Saxon, or Old English, the earliest form of English, spoken in the Middle Ages - so, between the 5th and 15th century.

那是盎格鲁-撒克逊语，或者说古英语，英语的最早形式，人们在中世纪说的——也就是 5 世纪到 15 世纪。

It doesn't sound anything like the way people talk nowadays.

它跟人们今天说话的方式一点也不一样。

No, but it's surprising how many of the words we use today have survived from Old English - beer, wine, drink, fish, bread, butter, eye, ear, mouth, head, hand, foot, life, love, laughter, mother, daughter, sister, brother, son, father - all Anglo-Saxon words!

是的，但是令人惊奇的是我们如今使用的很多单词都是来自自古英语——啤酒、葡萄酒、饮料、鱼、面包、黄油、眼睛、耳朵、嘴巴、头、手、脚、生活、爱、笑声、母亲、女儿、姐妹、兄弟、儿子、父亲——都是盎格鲁-撒克逊语中的单词！

Wow, so many everyday words!

哇，好多日常单词！

But what about the classics - Latin and Greek?

那么那些古典语呢——拉丁语和希腊语？

I thought a lot of English vocabulary came from there.

我想很多英语单词来源于那里。

That's also true, but the history of English is the history of invasions - you know, when the army of one country fights to enter and control another country.

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也没错，但是英语的历史就是侵略的历史 —— 你知道的，某个国家的军队攻打进入并控制另一个国家。

Like the Roman invasion of Britain?

就像英国的罗马入侵？

Right, and later invasions too, by Norse-speaking Vikings and Germanic Saxons.

是的，还有后来的入侵，说挪威语的维京人和日耳曼撒克逊人。

In fact, Georgina, that reminds me of my quiz question.

事实上，乔治娜，这让我想起了今天的问题。

Go on then, but in modern English if you don't mind...

继续说，但是请说现代英语，如果你不介意的话.....

OK. Well, the year 1066 is remembered for a famous battle when the French-speaking Norman king, William the Conqueror, invaded England - but what is the name of the famous battle?

好的。1066 年因为一场著名的战役而被铭记，当时说法语的诺曼国王征服者威廉入侵了英格兰 —— 但是这场著名战役的名字叫什么？

Is it: a) The Battle of Waterloo, b) The Battle of Hastings, or c) The Battle of Trafalgar?

是 A。滑铁卢战役，B。海斯汀战役，还是 C。特拉法尔加战役？

Hmm, my history's not great, Neil, but I think it's, b) The Battle of Hastings.

嗯，我的历史不太好，内尔，但是我认为 B。海斯汀战役。

OK, Georgina, we'll find out 'later' - another Old English word there!

好的，乔治娜，我们“稍后” —— 又是一个古英语单词 —— 会揭晓答案！

But it's not just words that survive from Anglo-Saxon, it's word endings too - the suffix, or letters added to the end of a word to modify its meaning.

但是不仅仅只是单词从盎格鲁-撒克逊那里流传下来，词尾也是 —— 即后缀，或者说添加在单词结尾处改变单词含义的字母。

Right, like adding 's' to make something plural, as in: one bird, two birds.

是的，就加“s”变复数，例如，one bird（一只鸟），two birds（两只鸟）。

Or the 'ness' in 'goodness' and 'happiness'.

或者加“ness”，例如“goodness”和“happiness”。

And 'dom', as in, 'freedom' and 'kingdom'.

还有“dom”，例如“freedom”和“kingdom”。

Poet Michael Rosen is fascinated by Old English.

诗人迈克尔·罗森痴迷于古英语。

Here he is talking about word suffixes to Oxford University professor Andy Orchard for BBC Radio 4's programme, Word of Mouth.

下面是他在 BBC 电台 4 频道的节目《Word of Mouth》跟牛津大学教授安迪·奥查德谈论单词后缀。

Listen out for the proportion of modern English that comes from Anglo-Saxon.

请听现代英语来源于盎格鲁-撒克逊的比例。

'I walked' - that 'walked' the 'et' bit on the end. - Yeah, the 'ed' ending.

“I walked” —— “walked”中结尾处的“et”。- 是的，“ed”结尾。

Most modern verbs - if we were to say, 'I texted my daughter', I mean text obviously comes from Latin.

大部分现代单词 —— 如果我们说“我跟我的女儿发信息”，我的意思是，很显然 text 这个词来自拉丁语。

'I tweeted' - we still lapse to the Anglo-Saxon.

“我发推特” —— 我们还是来源于盎格鲁-撒克逊语。

And, generally when I'm speaking, just let's do it in mathematical terms, what proportion can we say is Old English?

而且通常当我说话的时候，我们从数学角度来说吧，我们说的多少比例是古英语？

Can we say, like, about 80% in common parlance, sorry to use a French word there?

我们能说按照一般说法有 80% 吗，不好意思，刚刚用了法语？

In speech it would be something like that - in the written language, less.

在口语中应该是这样的 —— 在书面语中更少一些。

They're the basic building blocks of who we are and what we think.

他们是我们如今的样子和思考内容的基石。

Professor Orchard estimates that 80 percent of spoken English in common parlance comes from Anglo-Saxon.

奥查德教授估计按照一般说法，80% 的英语口语来自盎格鲁-撒克逊语。

In common parlance means the words and vocabulary that most people use in ordinary, everyday conversation.

按照一般说法指的是大多数人在普通的日常对话中使用的单词和词汇。

So Anglo-Saxon words are the building blocks of English - the basic parts that are put together to make something.

所以盎格鲁-撒克逊单词是英语的基石 —— 一起构成某物的基本部分。

He also thinks that the languages we speak shape the way we see the world.

他还认为我们说的语言塑造了我们看待世界的方式。

Here's Michael Rosen and Professor Andy Orchard discussing this idea on BBC Radio 4 programme, Word of Mouth.

下面是迈克尔·罗森和安迪·奥查德教授在 BBC 电台 4 频道的节目《Word of Mouth》中讨论这个想法。

Can we say that English speakers today, as I'm speaking to you now, view the world through Anglo-Saxon eyes, through Anglo-Saxon words?

我们能说如今说英语的人，就像我在跟你说话一样，是通过盎格鲁-撒克逊人的眼睛，透过盎格鲁-撒克逊单词，看待这个世界的吗？

Can we say that?

我们能这么说吗？

Well, in Old English poetry it's always raining and I suppose it's always raining today.

嗯，在古英语诗歌中，总是下雨，而我认为现在也总是下雨。

There is a retrospective element, that we're still inhabiting that worldview, those ideas; the same words, the same simple ideas that they inhabited.

这是一个涉及过往的元素，我们还停留在那个世界观，那些想法；他们曾经停留在的同样的单词，同样的简单想法。

And what's extraordinary if you think about the history of English is despite the invasions by the Norse and by the Norman, and then despite the years of empire when we're bringing things back, the English that we're speaking today is still at its root Old English word, at its heart Old English word, still very much English.

如果你想一下英语的历史，不同寻常的是，尽管被挪威和诺曼人入侵，尽管我们在帝国时代我们找回了很多东西，我们如今说的英语还是源于古英语单词，本质上是古英语单词，还是很有英语范儿的。

Michael Rosen asks if English speakers see the world through Anglo-Saxon eyes.

迈克尔·罗森问说英语的人是否通过盎格鲁-撒克逊人的眼睛看待世界。

When we see something through someone's eyes, we see it from their perspective, their point of view.

当我们透过某人的眼睛看待某事物时，我们从他们的角度，他们的观点来看待它。

And Professor Orchard replies by saying that despite all the history of invasion and empire, the English we speak today is still Old English at heart - a phrase used to say what something is really like.

而奥查德教授回答说尽管有哪些侵略和帝国的历史，我们今天说的英语内核仍然是古英语 —— 这个短语表示某物真的很像什么。

Wow! So much history crammed into six minutes!

哇！六分钟里浓缩了好多历史！

And now, time for one more history fact.

现在该讲另一个历史事实了。

Do you mean your quiz question, Neil?

你是说你的问题吗，内尔？

What's the name of the famous battle of 1066?

1066 年那场著名战役的名字是什么？

What did you say, Georgina?

你说的是什么，乔治娜？

I said b) The Battle of Hastings.

我说的是 B。海斯汀战役。

Which was the correct answer!

回答正确！

The Battle of Hastings in 1066 played a big part in the Norman Conquest and mixing French words into the language.

1066 年的海斯汀战役在诺曼征服以及法语词融入英语中起到了重要作用。

And I also know how the English ruler, King Harold, died - shot through the eye with an arrow!

我还知道英国的统治者哈罗德国王去世了 —— 眼睛被箭射穿！

Ouch!

真疼！

OK, let's recap the vocabulary, some of which exists because of invasions - when one country enters and controls another.

好的，我们来回顾词汇，其中一些是因为侵略 —— 一个国家进入并控制另一个国家 —— 而存在的。

A suffix is added to the end of a word to make a new word.

后缀加在单词后面产生新单词。

The phrase in common parlance means using ordinary, everyday words.

用俗话说这个短语的意思是用普通的日常单词。

Building blocks are the basic parts used to make something.

基石指的是构成某物的基本部分。

To see things through someone's eyes means, from their point of view.

通过某人的眼睛看意思是站在他们的角度。

And finally, at heart is used to say what something is really like.

最后本质上的意思是某物很像什么东西。

That's all for this programme.

这就是本期节目的所有内容。

Join us again soon at 6 Minute English but for now, 'far gesund!' - that's Old English for 'goodbye'! ... Far gesund!...

请再次收听六分钟英语，但是现在我要说“far gesund！” —— 这是“再见”的古英语！再见！

