

# 你名字的首字母不好吗？ Does your name start with the wrong letter?

Hello. This is 6 Minute English. I'm Neil.

大家好，这里是六分钟英语，我是内尔。

And I'm Sam.

我是萨姆。

Now Sam, I assume that you know your alphabet.

那么萨姆，我想你知道你的字母表吧？

Of course, Neil-you mean my ABCs?

当然了，内尔——你是指26个字母吗？

We learn that at a very young age, you know?

我们很小的时候就学了，你知道吗？

Sorry to sound patronising.

很抱歉我说话听起来很傲慢。

But you do know why the letters in the alphabet are in that particular order.

但是你肯定知道为什么字母表里的字母是那样的顺序。

No, I don't.

不，我不知道。

That's really interesting.

这真有趣。

Why?

为什么呢？

I don't know either, I was hoping you might!

我也不知道，我还指望你知道呢！

But seriously, no one really knows how the order became established.

不过说真的，没有人真的知道这个顺序是怎么来的。

However, some research has shown that if your surname, your family name, begins with a letter later in the alphabet, you could be at a disadvantage at school and in life.

不过有些研究表明如果你的姓的首字母排在字母表的后面，那么你在学校 and 生活中可能会处于劣势。

Before we get in to that though, a question.

不过在我们聊这个之前，是一个问题。

Where does the alphabet come from in its earliest form?

字母表最初源于哪里？

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Was it a) Ancient Egypt, b) Ancient Greece, or c) Ancient Rome?

是 A. 古埃及, B. 古希腊, 还是 C. 古罗马?

What do you think, Sam?

你怎么看, 萨姆?

Well, we refer to the English alphabet as having Roman characters, so I'm going with Ancient Rome.

嗯, 我们说英语字母表里有罗马字, 所以我要选古罗马。

OK. I'll have the answer later in the programme.

好的, 我会在稍后的节目中揭晓答案。

In the BBC radio programme Fry's English Delight there was a feature about the alphabet and how it can have a negative impact on your school life.

在BBC电台节目《Fry's English Delight》中有一个专题是关于字母表以及它如何对你的校园生活产生消极影响的。

Can you remember all those years ago when you were at school?

你还记得你上学的时光吗?

What's the first thing that the teacher would do at the beginning of the day?

老师一天中做的第一件事是什么?

She would take the register-that's what we call it in the UK.

她会拿出花名册——我们英国是这么说的。

You can also call it the roll call.

你开可以叫它点名册。

Yes, this is when the teacher calls out the names to the students to check that they are all there.

是的, 它指的是老师叫出学生的名字来核实他们都在。

This is where the problem starts, according to, ironically, Professor Jeffrey Zax, from the University of Colorado.

讽刺的是, 根据科罗拉多大学的杰弗瑞·扎克斯教授的话, 问题就是从这里开始的。

The further down that list your name is, the less noticed you are by the teacher.

你的名字在名单上排得越后, 你就越不受老师关注。

Why is that?

这是为什么呢?

Here's Professor Zax.

来谈谈扎克斯教授的话。

When it begins, people are paying attention.

一开始的时候, 人们会注意。

As it proceeds, first the people who are already called, they no longer have any need to take things seriously.

随着点名的进行, 首先名字已经被点到的人, 他们不再需要表现得很严肃了。

And the people who are waiting to be called, their attention is wandering as well.

而等待被点名的人，他们的注意力也开始分散。

And so as you make your way through the roll call somehow the intensity of the engagement diminishes.

因此当你在进行点名的时候，不知怎的，参与度就淡化了。

So, what is the problem?

那么问题是什么呢？

Well, it's a lot to do with paying attention.

嗯，这个跟集中注意力有很大关系。

This means concentrating on something.

意思是专注于某事。

At the beginning of the roll call everyone is paying attention-they are quiet and listening.

点名刚刚开始的时候，每个人都集中注意力——他们安静地聆听。

But after the first names are called, those students don't need to pay attention any more.

但是当最开始的一批名字念完后，那些学生就不再注意力集中了。

So they lose a bit of interest in what comes next, and the students later in the list are also now distracted and the teacher, him or herself, is not so focussed.

所以他们对接下来的事物就有点失去兴趣了，而在名单后面的学生现在也开始走神，同时老师也不是那么专注了。

And by the end of the list, the relationship between the teacher and the students whose names are being called later is not as strong as those at the beginning of the list.

而在名单的末尾，老师和名字被之后念到的学生之间的关系没有名字在名单前面的学生强。

Professor Zax describes this by saying that the intensity of the engagement diminishes.

扎克斯教授把这个描述为参与度淡化。

Diminishes means 'gets weaker', and the intensity of the engagement is the strength of the communication, the level of enthusiasm for being involved.

淡化的意思是“变弱”，而参与度指的是交流的强度，想要参与其中的热情的水平。

So this is the start of the disadvantage which can subtly affect students throughout their school years and after.

所以这就是劣势的开始，它会微妙地影响学生们的在校生活以及以后的生活。

This was discovered after some research in the US in the 1950s.

美国20世纪50年代做了一些研究后发现了这一点。

So what were these disadvantages?

那么这些劣势有哪些呢？

Here's Professor Zax again.

下面还是扎克斯教授。

They were less likely to have enjoyed their high school courses, graduate from college if they applied.

他们享受高中课程的可能性会更低，如果他们申请大学的话，毕业的可能性也会更小。

They were more likely to drop out.

他们更有可能会辍学。

They had first jobs in occupations that paid less.

他们的第一份工作薪水会更低。

They were more likely to go to the military and they were more likely to have jobs whose prestige was lower.

他们更有可能从军，并且他们更有可能从事名望更低的工作。

So what disadvantages did they have?

所以他们有什么样的劣势呢？

Well, Professor Zax says that the research showed they enjoyed school less, were less successful academically and more likely to drop out of college or university.

嗯，扎克斯教授说研究表明他们不那么享受校园生活，在学业上不那么成功，并且更有可能从大学辍学。

This means that they left the course before it was finished.

这意味着他们在课程完成前就离开了。

And he also said that they were more likely to find jobs that had a lower prestige.

他还说他们更有可能从事名望更低的工作。

This means the jobs weren't seen as high status or desirable.

这意味着那些工作被认为是不高级或者不令人向往的。

Let's listen again.

我们再听一遍。

They were less likely to have enjoyed their high school courses, graduate from college if they applied.

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他们更有可能从军，并且他们更有可能从事名望更低的工作。

Well, Professor Zax seems to have done OK.

好的，扎克斯教授似乎表现得还不错。

Even with that surname!

即使他的姓是Z开头！

Indeed, I guess this doesn't apply to everyone.

确实，我想这并不适用于所有人。

Right, well, before we remind ourselves of our vocabulary, let's get the answer to the question.

好的，那么在我们回顾词汇之前，我们来揭晓问题的答案吧。

Where does the alphabet come from in its earliest form?

字母表最初源于哪里？

Was it a) Ancient Egypt, b) Ancient Greece, or c) Ancient Rome?

是 A. 古埃及，B. 古希腊，还是 C. 古罗马？

Sam, what did you say?

萨姆，你怎么看？

Pretty sure it's Ancient Rome.

很确定是古罗马。

What does your surname begin with?

你的姓是以哪个字母开头的？

A 'B', actually.

是B。

Well, you are wrong, I'm afraid.

嗯，恐怕你答错了。

It's actually Ancient Egypt-so well done to everyone who got that.

实际上是古埃及——那么恭喜答对的各位。

OK, now it's time for our vocabulary.

好的，现在该回顾我们的词汇了。

Yes-to pay attention to something means to concentrate on something, to not be distracted.

是的，注意某事的意思是专注于某事，不走神。

Then there was the phrase the intensity of the engagement, which is another way of saying the strength of the relationship, interaction and communication.

然后是参与度，表示关系、互动、交流强度的另一种说法。

And if your surname comes at the end of the alphabet you may find that the intensity of engagement with the teacher diminishes.

如果你的姓排在字母表的后面，你可能会发现跟老师的参与度会淡化。

Diminishes means gets weaker.

淡化的意思是变弱。

If you drop out from a course, it means that you leave it before it's finished.

如果你从某个课程辍学，这意味着你在它结束之前就离开了。

And the prestige of a job is the respect it has.

某个工作的声望指的是它得到的尊重。

If it is seen as important or desirable then it has higher prestige.

如果它被认为是重要且令人向往的，那么它就有更高的声望。

OK, thank you, Sam.

好的，谢谢你，萨姆。

That's all from 6 Minute English.

这就是六分钟英语的所有内容。

We hope you can join us again soon.

我们希望你们再次收听我们的节目。

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你们可以在[bbclearningenglish](#)网站、社交媒体和我们的APP上找到我们。

Bye for now!

再见了！

Bye bye, everyone!

再见了，各位！

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