BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Question and Answer of the Week 你问我答 Retain, remain, maintain





• 关于台词的备注: 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。

Jiaying

大家好,欢迎收听 BBC 英语教学的"你问我答"节目,我是主持人佳莹。这档节目帮 助广大的听众朋友们解答在学英语时遇到的难题。本期节目的问题来自听众 Shirley, 问题是这样的。

Question

Could you please talk about the difference between 'retain', 'remain' and 'maintain'?

Jiaying

听众 Shirley 想知道该怎样区分这三个词。动词"retain"、"remain"和 "maintain"都和保持相同的状态有关,但它们有细微的区别。

我们先从"retain"开始讲解。动词"retain"表示"保留,保有,保住",强调"持 续拥有某物"。一个人之所以要"retain"某个事物,通常是因为这个事物有价值或 有用。动词"retain"和搭配"hold on to"的意思相近。来听三个例句。

Examples

Please retain your receipt in case you need to return the item for a refund. (请保留收据,以防您需要退货换取退款。)

Despite the cutbacks, we need to retain a highly-skilled team to do the job. (尽管削减了开支,我们仍需保留一支技术过硬的团队来完成这项工作。)

It's important to retain our dignity when we're negotiating with the company. (在与这家公司谈判时,坚守我们的尊严是很重要的。)

Jiaying

我们也可以用动词"retain"来表示"物质保存某种特性或性质"。下面这个例句就 体现了"retain"的这个用法。

Example

The ground retains the warmth after a sunny day.

(晴天过后,地面仍保持温暖。)

Jiaying

接着,来讲"remain"。动词"remain"的意思是"保持原位,维持原状"。当某物或某人长时间处于同一位置或状态时,可以用这个词来描述。比如,你管理一家企业已久,我们就可以说你在很长时间内都"remain in charge"。听四个例句。

Examples

Please remain seated until the aircraft has come to a complete stop.

(飞机完全停稳前请不要离开座位。)

The school will remain closed until the heating system has been fixed.

(在供暖系统修好前,学校会一直处于关闭状态。)

London remains one of the most popular cities to visit.

(伦敦仍是最受欢迎的旅游城市之一。)

How Luke got five A stars in his exams remains a mystery!

(卢克是怎么考出五个 A 星的,这仍是个谜!)

Jiaying

此外,动词 "remain"也可以表示"对某件事情保持相同的观念或信念,不改变想法"。听两个例句。

Examples

My answer remains the same – you're not going out tonight.

(我的答复还是一样,你今晚不许出去玩。)

Her opinion about her boss remains the same.

(她对她上司的看法一如既往。)

Jiaying

最后来看"maintain"。这个动词的意思是"保持,维护,保养",即保持事物现在的良好状态、水平、质量或数量。比如: "maintain a building(保养一栋楼)",从而确保它的安全性等等; "maintain a level of production(维持产量水平)",从而满足客户的需求。听四个例句。

Examples

To maintain a good quality of life, I need to keep this job.

(为了保持良好的生活质量,我需要保住这份工作。)

We need to maintain the roof so it doesn't start leaking.

(我们需要修护屋顶,以防漏水。)

The car needs maintaining if we're to use it throughout the winter.

(如果我们整个冬天都要用这辆车,就得维护它。)

We need to maintain our effort if we're to get this project finished on time.

(如果我们想按时完成这个项目,就需要继续努力。)

Jiaying

总结一下:动词 "retain"是 "保住、保留有价值的事物";动词 "remain"的意思是 "保持原有的位置、状态或观点";最后,动词 "maintain"则强调 "保持目前的水平或良好状态"。

来听一句话: I hope you're able to retain this information and you remain a good English learner!

如果你在英语学习中遇到了难题,欢迎通过微博向我们提问。我们的微博账号是"BBC英语教学"。你也可以发邮件给我们,邮箱地址是:questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk谢谢收听"你问我答"节目。我是佳莹。我们下次再会!