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#### Beth

Hello and welcome to Question and Answer of the Week. I'm Beth.

#### Jiaying

And I'm Jiaying. 在本期节目中，我们回答的问题来自一位网友，问题是这样的：

#### Question

想问“complicated、complex”和“sophisticated”有什么区别？求回复，谢谢。

#### Beth

Thank you for this great question! These are all adjectives but they can be confusing.

#### Jiaying

的确，形容词“complicated、complex”和“sophisticated”的意思相近，所以很容易混淆。

#### Beth

So, to explain the difference, we're going to hear a dialogue.

#### Jiaying

大家在听下面这个对话的同时，想一想对话中的两个人在做什么事情，遇到了什么问题？

#### Dialogue

**A:** This bookcase is so difficult to build! I can't understand the instructions at all. They're so unnecessarily **complicated**.

**B:** You're right! I know it has a highly **complex** design, but these instructions are terrible.

**A:** Well, it took five hours, but look how beautiful and **sophisticated** the bookcase is.

**B:** Especially with all the books on it. It makes the room look so **sophisticated!**

### **Jiaying**

在刚刚这段对话中，A 和 B 两人在安装书架，但他们觉得“安装说明书太复杂，让人看不懂”。

### **Beth**

That's right. So, let's start with looking at the adjective 'complicated'.

### **Jiaying**

在讲解“complicated”这个词之前，再听一遍对话中使用了这个词的句子。

### **Dialogue**

**A:** This bookcase is so difficult to build! I can't understand the instructions at all. They're so unnecessarily **complicated**.

### **Beth**

It sounds like this person isn't happy with these bookcase instructions – they are 'complicated'.

### **Jiaying**

说得没错。形容词“complicated”的意思是“复杂的”，强调“事物由各种各样繁琐、难懂的部分组成，因此令人感到费解的”。有一点很重要：“complicated”的用法带有消极的意味，一件“complicated”的事物通常是“因过于复杂而需要重新考虑或规划的”。

### **Beth**

Exactly. And that's why we often use it with adverbs that show the level or opinion someone has about the 'complicated' thing.

### **Jiaying**

是这样没错。比如，在对话中，我们听到 A 对 B 说，书架的安装说明书是“unnecessarily complicated（无须如此复杂的）”。

### **Beth**

Yes. They were 'unnecessarily complicated'. But we could also use adverbs like 'extremely' or 'particularly'.

### **Jiaying**

另外，形容词“complicated”可以放在名词前，作定语使用。

## Beth

True. We can have a 'complicated relationship' or 'complicated idea'. In the dialogue, they were 'complicated instructions'.

## Jiaying

Beth 刚刚说 “complicated relationship（复杂的人际关系）” 和 “complicated idea（复杂的想法）”，还有对话中的 “complicated instructions（复杂的说明书）”。

我们接着来看问题中的第二个词 “complex”。“Complex” 的意思是 “事物由许多相关的不同部分组成，因此可能会让人感到费解的”。

## Beth

However, while 'complicated' is a negative thing, 'complex' doesn't have to be. Let's listen to the example again.

## Dialogue

**B:** You're right. I know it has a highly **complex** design, but these instructions are terrible.

## Jiaying

这样看来，对话中提到的书架有 “complex design”，这里 “complex” 其实像是在正面地形容书架的设计是 “错综复杂的”。这句话中 “complex” 的用法与 “complicated” 形容说明书 “过于复杂” 的用法不同。

## Beth

Yes. Here, the 'complex' design might add to the appearance or use of the bookcase.

## Jiaying

没错，书架的复杂设计 “complex design” 可能会让它更美观或更实用。

下面，我们来讲一讲形容词 “sophisticated”。在对话中，A 说道：

## Dialogue

**A:** Well, it took five hours, but look how beautiful and **sophisticated** the bookcase is.

## Beth

'Sophisticated' describes something that's made in a complicated way but with intelligence and great skill.

### Jiaying

这里，“sophisticated”用来形容书架的设计是“精巧高雅的，有品位的”。

### Beth

That's right. And we can use 'sophisticated' as an adjective to describe other nouns, like 'machine' and 'approach'.

### Jiaying

其实，我们前面还听到了对话中的 B 还用“sophisticated”一词描述了两人所在的房间，再来听一遍这句话。

### Dialogue

**B:** Especially with all the books on it. It makes the room look so **sophisticated!**

### Jiaying

这里，用“sophisticated”来形容事物是“精致的，彰显品位的”。

### Beth

So, the 'complex' design of the bookcase makes the room look fashionable and fits in with the culture of the time and place.

### Jiaying

我们还可以用“sophisticated”形容一个人，意思是“品味高雅的，穿着时尚的”。这个人可能住在装修精致的房子里，而且通常见多识广。

### Beth

So, remember, 'complicated' means something has lots of parts and is difficult to understand in a negative way.

### Jiaying

形容词“complicated”的意思是“过于复杂的，难懂的”，带有消极意味。形容词“complex”表示“构造复杂的”，但它并不一定用来负面地形容一个事物。

### Beth

And 'sophisticated' means complicated, but fashionable, and can show great skill.

### Jiaying

形容词“sophisticated”用来形容“高雅的，彰显品位和高超技艺的”。

好了，谢谢这位网友发来的问题。希望通过对话中的例句和我们的讲解，你对这三个近义词之间的区别有了进一步的理解。

欢迎大家向我们提问。你可以通过我们的微博账号“BBC 英语教学”发送你的问题，也可以将问题发送至：[questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk](mailto:questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk)

Bye, everyone!

**Beth**

Bye!