BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Question and Answer of the Week 你问我答

名词单复数的区别: 'wall' and 'walls'



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Beth

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

Jiaying

I'm Jiaying. 本期节目要回答的问题来自一位听众,问题由我来代读。

Question

你好,我想请教两个问题。第一,"wall"这个词什么时候用单数,什么时候用复数? 比如,在"长城(The Great Wall of China)"里面用单数,而在"castle walls"里 面却要用复数。第二,判断名词单复数的依据是什么?

Jiaying

这个问题问得很好!如果你想要提高说英语的水平、加深对英语语言的理解,那么掌 握名词单复数之间的区别是非常重要的一步。

Beth

Let's start by looking at your example with 'wall' and 'walls'.

In a castle, there is usually more than one wall, so we use the plural form by adding -s, 'walls'. 'Castle walls' refers to the individual walls that make up a castle, and often the external ones.

Jiaying

原来,由于一座"castle(城堡)"的城墙通常有不止一面,所以要用复数"walls"。 "Castle walls"指"城堡外部的围墙,城墙"。

那么,我们现在来对比一下"castle walls"中的名词"walls"与"The Great Wall of China(长城)"中的单数"wall"。

Beth

'The Great Wall of China' actually had a series of walls that were built throughout history but the English name doesn't reflect this. And this might be because when the wall was first named in English, they didn't know that there was more than one wall.

Jiaying

"中国的万里长城(The Great Wall of China)"在修建时有多道城墙。但它的英文 名称并没有反应这一点: "wall"在这里是单数。这可能是因为人们最初用英语命名 万里长城的时候,并不知道它有不止一道墙。

Beth

That's right. So, it's possible that the name is a mistake.

Jiaying

刚刚我们回答了第一个问题,下面咱们来讲一讲英语中有关名词单复数的知识点。

Beth

When we talk about one thing, we use the singular form of the noun.

Jiaying

原来,可数名词的单数形式通常指一个或一样东西;可数名词的复数形式表示两个或 更多的这类东西, 变复数的规则通常是在其单数形式后直接加上字母 s。来听两段对 话。

Examples

A: Do you have a pen?

B: Yes, I have five pens.

A: I need a cup.

B: We have lots of cups.

Beth

Sometimes nouns are irregular. That means they have a different ending when they are plural, rather than -s.

Jiaying

没错,有一些不规则名词的复数需要单独记忆,比如:"child(孩子)"和"children(孩子们)"。"One child(一个孩子)"和"two or more children(两个或两个以上的孩子们)"。

Beth

And one 'person' but two or more 'people'.

Jiaying

所以,名词 "person"表示"人"的时候,复数是"people"。还有一个不规则名词的例子是"女人"的单数"woman",它的复数是"women"。

英语中还有一类名词,叫作"不可数名词"。

Beth

For example, 'snow', 'rubbish' and 'bread' are uncountable. The form stays the same.

Jiaying

对,像"snow、rubbish、bread"这类不可数名词,如果需要计数,那应该通过量词来说明数量,而不能改变这些名词本身。

Beth

For example, 'a loaf of bread' or 'two loaves of bread'.

Jiaying

"A loaf of bread (一条面包)"; "two loaves of bread (两条面包)"。我们来听两个例句。

Examples

Wow! There's lots of snow here.

(哇!这里有很多雪。)

We need three loaves of bread to make this meal.

(我们需要三条面包来做这顿饭。)

Jiaying

好了,总结一下前面讲过的内容。谈论数量超过一个的可数名词时,通常用名词的复数形式。规则名词变复数时,通常在其单数后直接加字母 s;英语中也有不少不规则名词,它们的复数形式可能需要单独记忆。不可数名词无法直接变复数。

如果你也在学习英语时遇到了疑问,欢迎你通过微博私信将问题发送给我们,我们的 微博账号是"BBC 英语教学"。

Beth

Or you can email us your question. Our email address is: questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk
Bye!

Jiaying

Bye!