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- Li:** 大家好我是杨莉。欢迎收听《地道英语》。今天和我一起主持节目的是 Rob. Hi Rob.
- Rob:** Hello. Now come on Li, concentrate, I need you to help me finish this quiz in the newspaper. If I get all the questions right, I might win a holiday.
- Li:** Oh right. 我最喜欢测验了, 特别是可以获奖的竞猜! OK Rob, no problem, what's the next question?
- Rob:** Ok, right. Well it says here: what is the capital city of Chile?
- Li:** Easy. Santiago.
- Rob:** Good. Next, what is the name of the world's largest ocean?
- Li:** The Pacific – of course!
- Rob:** Wow, you're good Li. You really know your onions.
- Li:** 什么我知道我的洋葱? Was there a question about onions?!
- Rob:** No Li!
- Li:** Good, because that is one thing I don't know anything about –洋葱 onions – except that they make me cry.
- Rob:** Don't cry Li. It's a compliment. If someone says you know your onions, it means you are experienced in something or you know a lot about a particular subject. So it means you're clever!
- Li:** Oh really?! 这么说 '知道自己的洋葱'是个食品成语, 意思是对什么事情或专业很精通、很懂行. But why 'onions'?
- Rob:** Well, it is a strange term, isn't it, and some people say it comes from a man called S.G. Onions, who made fake coins to help teach children about money. So if they learnt about money they would know their onions.
- Li:** I see. 这个成语的出处大概是一个人的名字。一个叫洋葱的人利用假洋葱来教授孩子们如何理财。 But now we just use it as a silly expression.
- Rob:** Yes we do, a bit like this...

Examples

If you ever need someone to fix your computer, ask Bob, he really knows his onions!

Look, you got full marks in the maths test – you really do know your onions.

That tour guide really knew her onions, didn't she?

Li: 现在非常清楚了 to know your onions 这个短语的意思就是精通某事。Well, that describes me very well then!

Rob: Hmm. Now another way of saying it is that you really know your stuff.

Li: Stuff 东西。你也可以用 'You really know your stuff' 来代替，意思就是你的确对这件事很精通。Like this...

Example

When it comes to making cakes, my mum really knows her stuff.

Rob: Well, knowing your onions, or knowing your stuff, is very useful when you're doing a quiz like this. Here's another question Li. Complete the name of this flavour of crisp... 'Cheese and something'?

Li: Oh, that's tricky... cheese and ham? Cheese and apple? 正确的答案是什么来着? 土豆片的味道是五花八门的 cheese 和...和...? I've got it! It's cheese and onion crisps. 没错就是奶酪和洋葱味的土豆片!

Rob: Brilliant Li. You really do know your onions. And now I might win a holiday.

Li: That's great but who are you going to take with you?

Rob: Probably my girlfriend.

Li: Oh right. I didn't want to go with you anyway – you have got onion breath!

Rob: Oh dear. Join us again soon for another Authentic Real English.

Li: Bye!