

Q and A of the Week 你问我答

Possessive s and objects

表示所属关系的上撇号



- 关于台词的备注:
请注意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。
- 请注意：中文文字内容只提供简体版

Jackie: Hello, welcome to Question and Answer of the week.

Li: Where we answer your questions about the English language.

Jackie: In this week's programme, we'll be talking about the phrase 'in this week's programme'!

Li: 雅加达的 Ely 给我们写信提出了以下问题:她的问题是'我一直以为表示所属关系的上撇号不能和没有生命的名词连用,可是我却经常听到这个句子 'in this week's programme'

Jackie: Yes, you do! Before we answer that question, let's have a quick reminder of what the possessive apostrophe s is.

Li: 有时在英语里我们会看到名词的后面有一个上撇号,后面跟着字母 s,这就是我们今天要解释的撇 s,表示一种所属关系。

Jackie: Li's book, Jackie's pen, the President's office – all these examples contain apostrophe s. Jackie's pen is a much more easy and natural way of saying 'the pen of Jackie' or 'the pen that belongs to Jackie'.

Li: But can we use the possessive apostrophe s for things other than people – Ely wants to know, can it apply to objects?

Jackie: It can!

Li: 是的。表示所属关系的撇 s 即可以表示人也可以表示物也可以表示组织机构等等。

Jackie: Listen to these examples.

Examples

The bank's reputation has suffered because of this mistake.

Goat's milk is nicer than cow's milk.

My father's name is Michael.

The girls' teacher comes from China.

*The dog's legs were covered in mud.
England's economy is struggling this year.*

Li: 此外，我们还可以用撇 s 来表示时间概念：

Examples

*Last year's accident was unexpected.
I had four weeks' holiday in France this year.
Seven hundred people watched Saturday's match.*

Jackie: But it can go further than that.

Li: Yes, 这个上撇号还经常用来形容日常物品。

Examples

*The plant's leaves.
The tree's branches.
The aeroplane's wings.
The mug's handle.*

Li: 上面这些例句都是正确的。

Jackie: In the case of objects, it's hard to say when or when not to use the possessive, as sometimes it just sounds right and in other cases it doesn't.

Li: 是的，我来解释一下，在使用表示所属关系的上撇号时没有硬性的规定，以听上去自然为准。如果你没有把握，那么就可以使用最保险的 of 结构，of the 什么什么。你能举个例子吗？

Jackie: Sure. The leaves of the plant, the wings of the aeroplane.

Li: 还有一点我要提醒大家的是上撇号 s 的拼写。虽然通常情况下是在名词的后面加上' s，但是如果这个名词的复数已经有一个 s 那怎么办呢？这时，你只需要加上一个撇不用加字母 s。这点很重要希望大家记住。

Jackie: In the sentence: "Both boys' toys were broken", boys' – in the plural - is spelt B.O.Y.S.-apostrophe (boys').

Li: 如果碰到了不规则名词，比如 children or women 这时你就按照正常情况，加上撇 s，Jackie 你能举例示范一下吗？

Jackie: In: "The children's party was cancelled" children's is spelt with apostrophe s at the end, as for singular nouns.

Li: Thank you again Jackie. 最后的一点提示就是在碰到人名里有 s 的时候怎么办。比如詹姆斯 James, 那么你有两种选择, 第一是只加上撇号, 不加 s:

Jackie: J.A.M.E.S.-apostrophe (James').

Li: 第二个选择是加上撇号加 s:

Jackie: J.A.M.E.S.-apostrophe-s (James's).

Li: You would choose pronunciation accordingly, either /iz/ or /isiz/.

Jackie: James' house or James's house.

Li: You might sometimes need to choose the latter to make the meaning clear. For example:

Example

My house is older than Mrs Evans.

Li: 以上这句话里的撇后面没有加 s, 它可以有两个意思: 一个是我的房子比埃文思夫人的年岁更老, 另一个是我的房子比埃文思夫人的房子要老!

Jackie: But if you say:

Example

My house is older than Mrs Evans's.

Li: 如果上撇号后面加上了 s 的话, 那么这句话很清楚, 只能有一个意思: 我的房子比埃文思夫人的房子更老!

Jackie: Ely, we hope this week's programme was useful for you.

Li: 我来总结一下, 表示所属关系的上撇s可以同许多名词连用, 不仅仅包括人, 还包括物, 特别是时间。

Jackie: For more language questions, go to www.bbcukchina.com.

Li: 不要忘了如果你有英语学习上的问题请随时发电子邮件给我们, 我们的邮箱是 questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk