

# Q and A of the Week 你问我答

## Road or way?

### 两个表示‘道路’的名词



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**Jennifer:** Hello, and welcome to Question and Answer of the Week. I'm Jennifer, and with me today is Li.

**Li::** Hi there!

**Jennifer:** Now Li, how did you get into work today?

**Li::** The same way as usual, I took a bus from the tube station.

**Jennifer:** Why didn't you walk? It's not that far.

**Li::** I always get lost or end up going the wrong way. But why are you asking me about my journey to work?

**Jennifer:** Well it's all to do with this week's question, which has come in from Tan, who emailed to say:

*I found a sentence like this: "We walked all the way to the museum." Could I use 'road' instead of 'way'? Also, do these words also have the meaning solution? For example, "I took a long time to find a solution to the problem", can I use 'way' or 'road' instead?*

**Li:** 听上去 Tan 提出的问题是如何区分使用 'road' 和 'way', 另外就是能不能用 "way" 这个词表示 solution 也就是办法或途径。

**Jennifer:** We'll look at the second part of Tan's question later, but first of all, let's look at the difference between 'road' and 'way'. Let's take a look at this map.

**Li::** Hmm... 这是一张伦敦的地图。

**Jennifer:** That's right, I use it to find the way to different places. When we say 'way' like this, it means the whole route from one place to another.

**Li::** 也就是说我们用地图去查看从一个地方到另一个地方的路线 'the way'. Tan said "We walked all the way to the museum."

- Jennifer:** That's a good example. It might have been a long way, or a short way – but it tells us that Tan walked the whole route to the museum – all the way.
- Li::** 如果一条路线的距离很长，那么一路上可能要经过很多 roads and streets.
- Jennifer:** Exactly. Let me give you an example. So take a look at the map. Can you tell me the way from the studio to Waterloo Station?
- Li::** Let me have a look... You walk left out of the building, down Kings Road, then over Waterloo Bridge and then finally walk down Waterloo Road.
- Jennifer:** That's right – so as you can see, the word 'way' can mean more than just one road or street. Let's hear some more examples:

### Examples

Voice 1: Excuse me, which way is the museum?

Voice 2: If you turn right and walk down the road, then take a left you'll see it.

Voice 1: The trains have been cancelled today – I'll have to walk all the way home!

- Li::** 以上例句说明 'Way' 这个单词用来形容从一处到另一处的路线。
- Jennifer:** That's right.
- Li::** Tan 的第二个问题是在表示路线这个意思的时候能不能用 'road' 这个词来替换 'way' "We walked all the road to the museum" – is that right?
- Jennifer:** That's not quite right. The word 'road' describes one particular street on a map. So you might drive down a certain road to get to work.
- Li::** I see. 不能替换，因为'路'指的是一个具体的街道。
- Jennifer:** That's true. There are many roads on this map.
- Li::** And many ways of getting to different places.
- Jennifer:** So instead of saying "We walked all the road to the museum," Tan could say: "We walked all the way along the road to the museum." This shows that they walked down one particular road...
- Li::** 如果使用 "all the way" 这个短语那么就暗示走了很长的一段路!
- Jennifer:** So let's take a look at the second part of Tan's email now. He asks whether the words 'way' or 'road' can be used to mean 'solution'
- Li::** Tan 还问我们能不能用 'way' 或者 'road' 来表示解决问题的途径中的途径这个意思。

*For example, "I took a long time to find a solution to the problem". Can I use 'way' or 'road' instead?*

- Jennifer:** The word 'way' can be used to describe a method or a plan, or some way to achieving a solution.

**Li::** Tan 列举了一个句子: "I took a long time to find a way to the problem"? 这对不对呢?

**Jennifer:** Almost. We can say "I took a long time to find a way *around* the problem".

**Li::** I see. 只要改一下介词就成为正确的英语了。"A way around a problem". Thank you Jen.

**Jennifer:** You can also use 'way' with a verb. We often talk about finding a way to do something.

**Li::** So Tan could say: "I took a long time to find a way to solve the problem"?

**Jennifer:** That's right! Let's hear some more examples:

### Examples

All of the trains were cancelled today and I was worried I might be late for work, but I found a way around it and got a lift with my friend instead.

Solar panels on your roof are a good way to solve the problem of expensive energy bills.

Talking to a native speaker is a good way to learn English!

**Li::** 这么说 'way' 可以表示途径和办法。那么 'road' 这个词呢?

**Jennifer:** No, we wouldn't use the word road like this – we'll leave that one for the map. Well Tan, I hope that we answered your question today.

**Li::** 很好。如果其他朋友也有文化或语言上的问题请随时给我们发电子邮件。我们的邮箱是 [questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk](mailto:questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk)

**Jennifer:** It's time for us to go now. Li, do you want to borrow my map so that you can walk home instead – you can see which roads to walk down to find your way home.

**Li::** That's a good idea! Let's me see. 不过这地图太难看。I'll walk down this road, then that road, then... It's no good. 我实在是看不懂这张地图! I give up.

**Jennifer:** Oh, Li. That's because it's upside down. You're looking at it the wrong way!

**Li:** Whoops.