

Q and A of the Week 你问我答

After-work plans

下班后的计划



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Yang Li: 大家好欢迎收听《你问我答》节目我是杨莉我的搭档是 Chris.

Chris: Hi, Li. It's your birthday today, isn't it?

Yang Li: Yes it is, how did you find out!?

Chris: Ah well that's a secret, but how about a little celebration after we knock off today?

Yang Li: After we what?

Chris: Knock off.

Yang Li: Knock off?

Chris: To knock off means to finish work for the day. Our question this week comes from Goldfish in Hong Kong

Yang Li: 来自香港的朋友金鱼希望了解用英语如何表达下班这一概念，其中的一个短语是 to knock off. 这是怎样一个词呢，正式书面语还是口语化的非正式说法？礼貌不礼貌？

Chris: It's informal but it's not rude. It's fine to use it apart from in very formal situations. Have a listen to these examples.

Yang Li: 是非正式用语但并非不礼貌。不过最好不要在非常的正式场合用。请听例句。

Insert

Man: Hi there Dave. Do you fancy watching the match tonight after work?

Friend: I'd love to but I don't knock off till 8 and kick off is at 7:30.

Woman: I've been working such long hours recently, it's ridiculous. I didn't leave the office till midnight yesterday.

Friend: That's terrible. You ought to knock off early today to make up for it.

Yang Li: So to knock off 英语中表示下班了，结束一天工作的一种非正式的短语。下面我们再介绍几个不同的说法。

Chris: In the past it was very common for people to make an official record of the exact time they arrived for and left work. This was called clocking on and clocking off.

Yang Li: 过去人们通常是用打卡的方式记录上下班的准确时间，上班进公司时打卡，下班离开公司的时候再打卡，这在英语里叫 clocking on 打卡进 clocking off 打卡出。

Chris: And even though this doesn't really happen any more, we still use the expression. So Li, as I was saying. It's your birthday today. Let's go out for a little celebration after work. What time are you clocking off?

Yang Li: Well, I started at 10 so I'll probably clock off at 6.

Chris: Great. Let's go for a drink at 6 then.

Yang Li: 嗯。你再教几个表示停下来或者下班时间的短语，然后我再想去喝酒的事儿吧！

Chris: OK. Listen to these conversations and see if you can pick any up.

Yang Li: 请大家注意听下面的对话，看看你能不能听出来那些短语表示停下来的意思。

Insert

Manager on phone: OK, OK, no excuses Mark. I want those reports on my desk by close of play. Any later and there are going to be problems. Close of play, alright?

Office worker: Oh my eyes are burning. I can't stare at this screen any longer or I'll go mad. I'm going to call it a day and try to finish this off tomorrow.

Woman: Right that's enough. I've been here since 6 am and all the equipment's stopped working so I'm just going to call it quits.

Yang Li: There were three good expressions in there. Can you repeat them, Chris?

Chris: Sure. The first man, who sounded like an important manager, said he wanted his employee to finish some reports by the close of play.

Yang Li: The close of play. 收工的时候，一天工作结束时。

Chris: The second person, who had been looking at their computer screen for two long, said they would 'call it a day'.

Yang Li: To call it a day. 就到这儿为止了。

Chris: And the last person was giving up for the day because she started very early and none of the equipment was working properly. She said she would 'call it quits'.

Yang Li: To call it quits. 也是类似意思, 表示停下手里正在做的事情或工作。下面我们再把刚才的那段对话听一遍, 注意听上面我们刚刚解释的几个短语。

Insert

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Yang Li: 好了, 金鱼同学希望我们回答了你的问题。

Chris: Yes, and I hope you are going to answer my question too. It's 6 o'clock now and time to clock off, knock out, call it day and call it quits. Let's go and celebrate your birthday.

Yang Li: OK, Chris, but only if you are buying.

Chris: Of course! It's your birthday.

Yang Li: 是的, 如果你也有英语学习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

Chris: Bye

Yang Li: Bye