

BBC Learning English – Q & A of the Week

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Q & A of the Week: See, Look and Watch 英语里表达‘看’的单词

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

Finn: 欢迎收听你问我答, I'm Finn. We're here, as always, to help you with your questions about the English language.

Feifei: And this week, we have a question from a Chinese listener in New Zealand.

Insert

Hello my name is Hui. I have a question: when I talk with local people they use lots of words like watch, see and look, and I wonder the difference among these words. Thank you..

Finn: A very good question there. Huiping 想知道 look, watch and see 这三个词的不同. Now they're all common words, but actually this question is not so easy to answer, is it Feifei?

Feifei: No it's not but let's try our best. 大家肯定对这个三个单词都不陌生, 而且大多数情况下当这三个表示看的单词出现在一句话中的时候, 我们也能正确的理解其意思, 不过究竟什么时候该用哪个词呢?

Finn: Yes, so today we'll be looking at the differences in meaning and usage between these three related words, with the help of a cat.

Insert

Meow

Feifei: A cat? 不过首先我们还是从最基础的区别开始说吧。Ready Finn?

Finn: Ready. So first up: see, S.E.E. This is the simplest of the three words, and it simply is when you use your eyes, so by using your eyes, you are aware of something – you can see it.

Feifei: See 比较好理解, 当一个事物或人进入了你的视野或视线中时, 不管你是不是有意去看的, 只要你看到了 aware of it 就是知道它的存在, 这时就用 see.

Insert

When I went into my kitchen, I could see my cat, Mr Fluffy.

Feifei: 上面的这个例子中这位男士一进屋就看到了 sees 这只猫, 而他没有刻意的去看。

Finn: That's right. So let's look at word number two, which is look: L.O.O.K. What's the difference between see and look? Well, the difference is that when you look at something you do it deliberately – you pay attention to it.

Feifei: Look - 当你有意的 **deliberately** 把视线转向一个东西的时候。

Insert

Mr Fluffy couldn't see me, he was looking at his food bowl, which was empty. Then I coughed, and he turned round and looked at me.

Feifei: 这个例子说 **Mr Fluffy** 在盯着看 **looking** 它的空饭碗 **his food bowl** – 这是一个有意做出的动作，当它听到有人咳嗽的时候，**Mr Fluffy** 又转过身去看着 **look at** 那个人，这也是一个有意做出的动作。

Finn: Now, thirdly, the last word: watch, W.A.T.C.H is a bit different from look. Now, you watch something when you look at it but for longer, and especially when it's something that's changing or moving.

Feifei: **Watch – looking at** 和 **watching** 这两个词的区别通常在于看一个东西的时间长短和强度大小；所以我们常用 **watch** 来表达你长时间的看一个东西，尤其是一个在不断移动和变化的东西。

Insert

Mr Fluffy was hungry. I knew because he just kept watching me – whatever I did he just kept watching me. I walked to the other side of the kitchen to get some food, and he was watching me. All the time just watching me.

Feifei: 饥肠辘辘的 **Mr. Fluffy** 这个一直盯着在看 **watching** 这位先生在屋子里走来走去帮它准备食物的过程。注意因为这个先生是一直在走动，也就是说一个在不断移动的东西，那这是我们就应该用动词 **watch**；假设他一直站着没动，那么**Mr Fluffy** 这只猫就是 **looking at** 看着他了。希望我们已经解释清楚了 **watch, see** 还有 **look** 的区别。So did Mr Fluffy get his food?

Finn: Hmm, I hope so. Now in Chinese, there's one more thing I think we should be aware of – the influence of the verb 看. So in Chinese you get phrases like 看书, 看电视。

Feifei: Yes, 虽然在汉语中我们使用的动词都是看，不过在英语中我们会使用不同的动词来表示看这个动作。

Finn: Indeed, so for example 看电视 we say 'watch TV', we don't say 'see TV' or 'look TV'. 看书呢, that's slightly different. We actually use the verb 'read': to read a book. So here we've introduced a fourth verb: see, look, watch and now read.

Feifei: 看书或是看报纸，我们都会用动词 **read**，虽然很简单，但是大家一定要特别留意。

Insert

*I gave Mr Fluffy his bowl of food and then sat down to read the paper. Then I watched a little TV. As I was **watching** I heard a noise. Meow. I looked down. Mr Fluffy was hungry again.*

Feifei: 好了，我们就先练习到这儿，希望今天的节目内容回答了 **Huiping** 提出的问题，也非常感谢她提出了这个问题。

Insert

Huiping: Thanks for answering my question, I love this programme very much.

Finn: And Huiping, we have a question for you – do you like cats?

Huiping: Oh, not really?

Finn: Not really? Ok thank you.

Feifei: 如果你有任何对英语语言学习方面的问题，请发邮件到 questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk。当然也可以登陆我们每天更新的网站：

Finn: www.bbcchina.com.cn. Bye for now.

Feifei: Bye.