

- 關於臺詞的備註:

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**Beth**

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

**Jiaying**

我是佳瑩，我們聽一下本期節目中要回答的問題，有兩名聽眾都有著類似的疑惑，問題如下：

**Question**

你好，有些單字加了字母“s”就是另外一種意思，不是第三人稱單數，而是像“mean”和“means”，還有“premise”和“premises”。

**Beth**

Thank you for your questions! It's most common to add an -s to the end of a verb to form third person singular, like 'eat' and 'eats'.

**Jiaying**

除了 Beth 說到的在部分動詞變第三人稱單數時，在字尾加字母“s”的情況以外，我們也在英語名詞後加“s”，使其變為複數，比如：單字“tree”的複數“trees”，這裡，字本身的意思沒有變化，但有時在單字後加“s”會改變字義。

**Beth**

Yes. Even if it seems like some words have completely different meanings with and without -s, such as 'mean' and 'means', there is usually still a connection between the two words.

**Jiaying**

通常情況下，在特定字語末尾加“s”後，雖然字義發生變化，但兩者的含義是有關聯的。

**Beth**

Let's look at an example – 'wood' and 'woods'. The singular uncountable noun, 'wood', is a natural material that comes from a tree and is used to build or make things, like tables and chairs.

### **Jiaying**

是的，“wood”指“木頭”，在末尾加上“s”後“woods”指“樹林”，也就是“一片比森林小、被樹木覆蓋的區域”。

### **Beth**

So, you can see the connection here between the material, 'wood', and a group of trees, 'woods'.

A similar example is 'time' and 'times'. They are both related to 'when'.

### **Jiaying**

沒錯，“Time”指“時間，時間點”，加上“s”後，則指“某事發生的次數”，“Time”和“times”的意思不同，但都和某事發生的時間有關，來聽一個使用了“times（次數）”的例句。

### **Example**

I have been to Spain three times.

（西班牙我去過三次。）

### **Beth**

So, again, 'time' and 'times' seem to have a different meaning but they both have a connection to 'when'.

So, Jiaying, we know there are words with or without -s that seem different but do have a connection in meaning.

### **Jiaying**

是的，上面我們講了在字尾加“s”，意思發生改變、但仍有所關聯的字。

接著來說另一類字，在英語中，一些字語雖然讀音和拼寫相同，但其含義卻不相關，被稱為“同音同形異義字”。

### **Beth**

OK. Let's look at an example of that now, with 'premise' and 'premises'.

### **Jiaying**

單數“premise”指“假定，前提”，請聽例句。

### **Example**

All investigations within the company were based on the premise that men and women are treated equally.

（公司內部的所有調查都以男女平等為前提。）

### Jiaying

在“premise”後加“s”，就變成了名詞複數“premises（房屋建築的廠址，營業場所）”。

### Beth

And, it's worth noting that its singular form is 'premise'. But, in everyday English, 'premises', with an -s, is always used. Have a listen to this example.

### Example

The New Year party has been held at the same premises for about ten years.

（新年聚會已經有十年都在同一個場地舉辦。）

### Beth

And a similar example can be seen with 'good' and 'goods'.

### Jiaying

是的，大多數英語學習者應該都知道，“good”作形容詞時的意思是“好的，令人滿意的”。

“Good”作名詞加上“s”後指“商品，貨物，私人財產”，雖然“goods”的單數形式是“good”，但“good”只用於官方檔中，而在口語交流中，基本都使用“goods”來表示“商品，貨品”。

### Beth

That's right. Listen to this example.

### Example

Countries want to import high-quality goods for a low price.

（各國希望以低價進口高品質的商品。）

### Jiaying

在聽眾們的問題中還提到了單字“mean”和“means”。

“Mean”作形容詞有“刻薄的”意思，比如：A bully is mean.（欺負他人是很刻薄的。）作動詞時，“mean”表示“某事物的意思是...”或“意味著...”。

### Beth

But, 'means' with an -s can be used to talk about the way something is done, often in the structure 'as a means of'.

### Jiaying

在“mean”後面加“s”，就變成了“means”，指“做某件事情的方法、手段”，請聽例句。

### **Example**

Some deaf people use sign language as a means of communication.

(一些聾人用手語作為交流手段。)

### **Beth**

So, sometimes words appear to change their meaning when they're followed by an -s. But often there is a connection between them and sometimes they just look and sound the same, but have a different meaning.

### **Jiaying**

好了，謝謝兩位聽眾發來的問題，希望通過我們的講解和例句，大家對單字末尾加 s 後，其含義是否改變有了更深入的理解。

歡迎大家向我們提問，你可以通過我們的微博帳號“BBC 英語教學”發送你的問題，也可以將問題發送至：[questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk](mailto:questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk)

Bye, everyone!

### **Beth**

Bye!