

- *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，本期節目的問題來自一位劉姓聽眾，他的問題是：

Question

你好！很喜歡你們的節目，我是一個英語初學者，想問：多音節單字怎樣劃分音節？

Beth

Thank you for this great question. We should start by thinking about why syllables are important. One of the reasons is to do with stress.

Jiaying

是的。首先我們要知道劃分音節可以幫助我們判斷哪個音節應該重讀。在多音節單字中，至少有一個主重音。

Beth

Now, native speakers of English do this very naturally. They automatically know where word stress is. But learners of English can find this difficult, and if a word is pronounced with the stress on the wrong syllable, it can be very difficult for people to understand it.

Jiaying

沒錯，即便你表述的句子在語法上是正確的，但一個單字的重音發音錯誤，就可能讓別人聽不懂你想要表達的意思。

Beth

So, before we talk about how to divide syllables, we need to think about what a syllable is in English and also what sounds they are made of. When we think of syllables, it's important to remember that there is always one vowel sound in each.

Jiaying

記住，每個音節中都包含一個“vowel（母音）”，它既可以是短母音，比如單字“bid”裡面的 /ɪ/；也可以是長母音，比如單字“bead”裡面的 /i:/；還可以是雙母音，比如單字“bide”裡面的雙母音 /aɪ/，另外，每個音節都可以分別以“consonant（子音）”開頭和結尾，比如“dog”；或以子音組合開頭或結尾，比如“stamp”。

Beth

It's also possible for the syllable to start with a vowel, such as in 'eat' or to exist without a consonant at all, such as 'eye'.

When you need to pronounce a word with multiple syllables, you need to decide where one syllable ends and the next one begins.

Jiaying

有些音節以母音開頭，比如單字“eat”，或著只包含母音，沒有任何子音，比如“eye”。

在讀多音節單字時，需要判斷各個音節從哪裡開始，從哪裡結束。在“butter”這類中間只有一個子音的單字中，第二個音節以這個子音開頭。

Beth

That's right. So, we have 'bu.tter', 'peo.ple', 'be.gi.nner'.

Jiaying

不過，有一些單字的音節間會有多個子音。

Beth

Yes, like many words that end in -ing, such as 'camping'.

Jiaying

我們就拿“camping”這個詞來看，/m/ 和 /p/ 並不是可行的子音組合。因此，在劃分“camping”的音節時，應該從 /m/和 /p/ 中間劃分開來，第一個音節為“cam /kæm/”，第二個音節為“ping /pɪŋ/”。

Beth

That means we have 'cam.ping', 'wan.ting' and 'fol.ding'.

Jiaying

在知道如何劃分單字的音節後，接著要學習不同重音的規則。

Beth

Generally, in words with two syllables, the stress is on the first syllable in nouns – 'tennis', 'picnic', 'table', and also adjectives – 'happy', 'little', 'special'. But, the stress is on the second syllable in verbs with two syllables – 'begin', 'include', 'expect'.

Jiaying

就如 Beth 剛剛說的，在雙音節單字中，如果是名詞，重音在第一個音節上。這一規則在形容詞中也適用。但在雙音節的動詞中，重音通常在第二個音節上。

在一些雙音節單字中，音節重音變化，單字的詞性和含義也會相應發生變化。

Beth

For example, 'present', 'present', 'object', 'object' and 'project', 'project'.

Jiaying

在這幾組詞當中，名詞的重音都在第一個音節上。Beth, can you give us three examples using the nouns 'present', 'object' and 'project'?

Beth

Sure.

I love opening presents on my birthday.

He was holding a strange object in his hands.

This project has taken weeks to complete.

Jiaying

動詞的重音都在第二個音節上。再來聽三個例句。

Beth

I'm going to present my plan for the future of the company.

I object to what you are saying.

When you work in a large theatre, you have to project your voice.

Learners of English need to know where the stress is on words so that they understand when listening and are understood when speaking.

Jiaying

好了，希望在聽了我們的講解後，大家對英語音節的劃分和重音的位置有了更深入的理解。謝謝這位姓劉的聽眾發來的問題。

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

Beth

Thank you for listening. Bye!

Jiaying

Bye!