

- 关于台词的备注：

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Beth

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

Jiaying

我是佳莹。

Beth

Several learners have asked what the difference is between 'intelligent', 'intellectual' and 'intelligible'.

Jiaying

这是一个很好的问题，因为这三个词有很多相似之处。其中，“intelligent”和“intellectual”都是形容词，用来描述人的心理和思维能力。

Beth

OK. Let's begin by comparing 'intelligent' and 'intellectual'. If a person is 'intelligent', they're able to learn and understand things quite easily.

Jiaying

形容词“intelligent（理解力强的，聪颖的）”所描述的能力是可测量的，也就是说，一个人的“level of intelligence（智力水平）”可高可低。在形容词“intelligent”前使用程度副词可以进一步说明此人的“聪颖”程度。

Beth

For example, if I say 'Lin is incredibly or highly intelligent', I mean 'Lin is very intelligent'. If I say 'Meng is quite or fairly intelligent', I mean 'Meng is generally intelligent'.

Jiaying

我们还可以用“intelligent”来描述事物，表示“有见解的，有见地的”。

Beth

Yes. For example: 'intelligent conversation', 'an intelligent question' or 'an intelligent decision'.

Jiaying

好了，来听两个使用了这类搭配的例句。

Examples

I'd like to date someone I can have intelligent conversation with.

（我希望能和一个可以与我谈天论地的人交往。）

You've made an intelligent decision. I'm sure you'll find a bigger house in a better area.

（你做了一个明智的决定。我相信你会在更好的地方找到更大的房子。）

Beth

Now, let's compare the adjective 'intelligent' with the adjective 'intellectual'.

Jiaying

一个“intellectual”的人是“有脑力的”、“智力发达的”，而且这个人通常能够轻松地理解复杂的概念或事物。

Beth

And also, they enjoy the challenge of learning – they're often interested in studying or activities that require mental effort.

Jiaying

是的，从这个层面上看，“intellectual”和“intelligent”不同：“intellectual”是无法测量的，一个人要么是“有才智的，有脑力的”——“intellectual”，要么就没有。听两个例句。

Examples

She is the most intellectual chess player we have seen in years.

（她是我们多年来见过的才思最敏捷的棋手。）

The researchers considered themselves intellectual equals.

（这些研究人员认为彼此智力相当。）

Beth

We can also use 'intellectual' to describe things, rather than people.

Jiaying

That's right. "Intellectual" 除了形容人是“聪明博学的，有才智的”以外，还可以形容事物或想法是“有思想的”。比如，婴儿需要通过阅读、唱歌和眼神交流等方式获取“intellectual stimulation（智力上的刺激）”。

“Intellectual”除了作形容词外，还可以作名词使用。

Beth

Yes. This describes a very educated person who is interested in complex ideas.

Jiaying

名词“intellectual”指“以学习为工作或生活中心的人”，也就是“脑力劳动者”。比如教师、作家等。

Beth

Let's move on now to look at the adjective 'intelligible'. This has a different meaning as it doesn't refer to mental abilities, but is more physical.

Jiaying

是的。这里，“intelligible”并不能用来谈论一个人的智力，而是形容“从客观上讲，说话或文字明白易懂的，可以理解的”。不论是言语交流，还是书面写作，都可以用“intelligible”来形容。

Beth

Therefore, 'intelligible' is used in situations where there is a chance that a person wouldn't be understood.

Jiaying

没错，学习外语的人刚开始可能会有一些口音，所以所说的外语可能“not intelligible”或者“unintelligible”。再比如，小孩子在描述一件事情时，有时“表述不连贯，让人无法理解”，那么小孩子的表述也是“not intelligible”或者“unintelligible（无法理解的）”。

Beth

That's right. And 'intelligible' can be measured so we can use adverbs with it, like 'barely' and 'perfectly'. Listen to these examples.

Examples

Even though Bob was very nervous about giving a speech in English, he was perfectly intelligible.

（虽然鲍勃因为要用英语演讲感到很紧张，但他表述得清晰易懂。）

Mel wrote the letter in a hurry, so it was barely intelligible.

(梅尔写这封信时很仓促，所以字迹几乎看不懂。)

Jiaying

在上面的例子中，Bob 的演讲 “perfectly intelligible (清晰易懂)”，但 Mel 写的信却 “barely intelligible (让人无法理解)”。

本期节目就告一段落了，希望听了我们的讲解后，你对单词 “intelligent、intellectual” 和 “intelligible” 之间的区别有了更好的理解。谢谢两位听众发来的问题。

欢迎大家向我们提问。你可以通过我们的微博账号 “BBC 英语教学” 发送你的问题，也可以将问题发送至：questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk

Bye, everyone!

Beth

Bye!