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Phil

Hello, this is Question and Answer of the week, I'm Phil.

Jiaying

And I'm Jiaying. 本期节目要回答的问题来自听众 Janice。问题是这样的：

Question

Hi, I'm Janice. I'm a student in English studies. I'm confused about the uses of 'communication', 'exchange', 'association', and 'interaction', which are all connected with '交往' in Chinese. So, what are their nuances and how do you use them in different situations? Thank you.

Jiaying

谢谢听众 Janice 发来的问题。问题中单词“communication、exchange”和“interaction”都与“交流和分享信息”有关，但单词“association”通常只能用来指“人或事物之间存在的关联或联系”，没有“交流，人际交往”的含义。

Phil

Yes, 'association' usually just means a link or connection of some kind.

Jiaying

是的。所以，我们接下来重点讲一讲“communication、exchange”和“interaction”之间的区别。先说说名词“communication”。

Phil

So, communication – this is the most general word, and we use it to talk about the act of sharing information with someone. This can be anything from whispering in someone's ear to broadcasting to millions on TV.

Jiaying

名词“communication”涵盖的意思最广，它指“交流，沟通，传播”，包括“口头、书面甚至是视觉上的交流和沟通”。所以，不论是和某人在耳边窃窃私语，还是在电视上向数百万人播放节目，都属于“communication”。来听两个例句。

Examples

Communication has led humans to develop more than other animals.

（交流使人类比其它动物进化得更高级。）

Being good at communication is important for any business.

（善于沟通对任何类型的公司都很重要。）

Jiaying

在这两个例句中，“communication”是不可数名词，强调“交流，沟通”这个抽象的概念。它还可以作可数名词，指“（口头或书面形式的）消息；信件，通信”。

Phil

'A communication' can be used to refer to a letter or a message – either spoken or written. It's something that's sent or published, rather than a conversation. Listen to these examples.

Examples

We received a communication with details of their bid last night.

（我们昨晚收到了一个关于他们投标细节的通信。）

Have you seen the latest communication about the event?

（你看到关于这次活动的最新消息了吗？）

Jiaying

接着来看名词“exchange”。“Exchange”和“communication”之间的重要区别是：“communication”可以指“单方面的沟通”或“单方面发出的通信或消息”，而名词“exchange”则暗示了“相互交流”。比如，两人进行的一次对话就属于“exchange”。

Phil

Yes, an exchange is between two people. We can talk about 'an exchange of letters' or 'an email exchange', but we often use it to talk about a bad-tempered conversation – 'an angry exchange'.

Jiaying

名词“exchange”除了泛指“交流”以外，还可以具体指“对话，交谈”。

“An exchange of letters（一系列书信往来）”；“an email exchange（一系列邮件往来）”；“an angry exchange（一次争吵）”。听两个使用了名词“exchange”的例句。

Examples

We've had an email exchange about it, but we couldn't come to a decision.

（我们已经就此事通过一系列电子邮件交流过，但我们无法做出决定。）

I don't know what that exchange was about – they weren't happy with each other!

（我不知道他们那次在争吵什么，他们都很生对方的气！）

Jiaying

我们来看名词“interaction”。

Phil

When we use 'interaction', we're really focusing on how people relate to each other. We might talk in general about 'social interaction', which is all about being with other people.

Jiaying

没错，我们一般用“interaction”指“人与人之间的交流、交往和互动”，这里“interaction”是不可数名词。比如：“social interaction（人际交往）”。听两个例句。

Examples

As people get older, it's important to maintain regular social interaction.

（随着人们年龄的增长，保持定期的人际交往是很重要的。）

Social interaction helps children develop.

（人际交往有助于儿童的发展。）

Jiaying

我们还可以用“an interaction”来指“人与人之间以各种各样的方式进行的一次互动”，这有可能是“一次交流和沟通”，也可能是“一次互动的行为或反应”。这里，“interaction”是可数名词。听两个例句。

Examples

My interactions with the company have always been difficult.

（我与这家公司的往来总是不太顺利。）

I don't know that person – I've never had any interaction with them.

（我不认识那个人。我从来没有和此人有过任何交往。）

Phil

So, while 'communication' is general and can be one-way, 'an exchange' is more specific and two-way. 'Interaction' is also two-way and can be more general than communication.

Jiaying

好了，希望我们的讲解帮助你对这几个词之间的区别有了更深入的理解。

如果你在英语学习中遇到了疑问，欢迎你把问题发送给我们。我们的邮箱是：quesitons.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk 你也可以通过微博私信的方式发送你的问题，我们的微博账号是“BBC 英语教学”。谢谢收听本期“你问我答”节目。Bye.

Phil

Bye!