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关于台词的备注:

请注意这不是广播节目的逐字稿件。本文稿可能没有体现录制、编辑过程中对节目做出的改变。

Plural Forms 名词复数

Feifei: 大家好，又到了《你问我答》时间。我是冯菲菲。

Rob: And hello, I'm Rob. This week someone's been asking about plural words.

Feifei: 名词复数。A plural is when there is more than one of something.

Rob: That's right. But today we've got just one question. Let's read the email and find out exactly what it says.

Insert

Hi. I always have trouble pronouncing the plural form 's' for many words especially when the word ends 'es'. Can you please help me? I heard it is also the same for the possessive 's'.

Thank you. Samantha See, Beijing.

Feifei: 来自北京的 Samantha 提出了一个关于名词复数的问题。她不太清楚在名词单数后加上字母 s 或 es 的发音。Don't we just say /s/ on the end of the word?

Rob: If only it was that simple. How you pronounce the ending depends on the words you're using. With some noun words like these...

Insert

*Bridge
Sausage
Friend*

Rob: You just add the letter s and then it sounds like this...

Insert

*Bridges
Sausages
Friends*



Feifei: 以上的几个例子都是在名词后加 s 变复数。Rob, that almost sounds like 'z' at the end. Friend-z.

Rob: That's the sounds you get if the word ends with a voiced consonant or it ends with a letter that is a vowel – a,e,i,o and u.

Feifei: 如果一个名词以浊辅音结尾，那再加上字母 s 后的发音就是 'z'.

Rob: Are you falling asleep?!

Feifei: No, I was just talking about the /z/ sound! So when else do we pronounce the /z/ sound on plural words?

Rob: Well, you also get that sound on plural words ending with es. Like this...

Insert

Buses
Garages
Quizzes

Feifei: 名词复数以 es 结尾的发音是 'iz'. /ɪz/

Rob: Come on Feifei, read these plural words and let's hear how they end.

Feifei: Ok here goes. Songs. Trees. Clothes. There's that 'z' sound again! So that's pronouncing /s/ as /z/. But what about when a noun ends in an *unvoiced* sound like p,f or t?

Rob: Then you end the plural word with a /s/ sound. Like this...

Insert

Books
Cloths
Beliefs

Feifei: That sounds different. It's a /s/ sound. 名词以清辅音结尾，变复数后 s 的发音是 ssss.

Rob: Now you're sounding like a snake!

Feifei: Well I'm not! It seems the sound depends on the noun. But now you're going to tell me there are exceptions?

Rob: Yes I am. I'm afraid there are. Just to confuse you, some words can end with a /s/ or a /ɪz/ sound. Like youth-z or youth-s, bath-z or bath-s.

Feifei: 下面我们来谈谈名词所有格。Samantha has also asked about pronouncing the possessive s.

Rob: This is when we usually add an apostrophe and then the letter s to a noun when we want to say it belongs to something. Like this...

Insert

Jack's cooking is the best in the world!
The dog's fur needed washing.

Rob: So, did you notice anything different?

Feifei: No!

Rob: That's because you pronounce the possessive s in just the same way as the other plural endings that we've discussed – with a /s/ or a /ɪz/ sound depending on if the noun ends with a voiced or unvoiced consonant.

Feifei: 名词所有格形式 s 的发音和名词变复数的发音是一样的。希望我们的解释对 Samantha 有所帮助。

Rob: Yes, I hope that's a bit clearer but there are still just a few exceptions. Feifei, how do you pronounce the plural of sheep?

Feifei: You can't trick me. The plural of sheep is...sheep!

Rob: I can't pull the wool over your eyes can I?!

Feifei: What?

Rob: Don't worry. If you have a question about the English language please email us at questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk

Feifei: 如果你在英语学习中遇到任何问题，请发邮件给我们。下期节目再会。

Rob: See you next time.

Both: Bye!