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**Suburbia 郊区、市郊**

- Oliver: 听众朋友好, 欢迎收听 BBC 英语教学节目。我是 Oliver, 和我搭档的 John.  
Hello John!
- John: Hello Oliver, on BBC Learning English today we're going to talk about suburbia!
- Oliver: John, what's that?
- John: Well, suburbia is a place where some people live.
- Oliver: So it's in the town!
- John: No!
- Oliver: It's in the countryside?
- John: No!
- Oliver: So, if it's not in the town and not in the countryside, where is it? 那我们要谈的是什么样的地方呢? 既不在城里, 也不在乡村, 那到底在哪里呢? John, please help!
- John: OK. Well, there's a place that you will find on the edge of most large towns before you get to the countryside. It seems like the countryside, but it also has the feeling of being in a town. That area has a name – 'sub-urbia' - suburbia.
- Oliver: Suburbia, 市郊、郊区。这就是我们今天节目里要为您介绍的地方, 介于城镇和乡村之间的区域, 市郊、郊区, suburbia.
- John: In Britain, suburbia has a particular significance – a particular social significance. For some people, it represents a haven of peace – a peaceful place - and a place that's safe, secure and predictable.
- Oliver: 对于英国人来讲, 在介于城市和乡村之间的地方生活有着特别的文化意义, a special cultural significance. So what makes suburbia in Britain interesting then?
- John: Well, according to some British historians, life in suburbia can tell us something about what sort of a society Britain is.

- Oliver: 没错儿，让我们先来快速回顾一下历史。英国历史学家， **British historians**, 认为郊区生活能够告诉我们一些关于英国社会的发展和变迁， **it has something to tell us**。从上个世纪二十年代，甚至是更早的时候开始，人们对乡村生活产生了兴趣，他们在经历了迅速的工业化的城市里住够了， **rapidly industrialising**。特别是各种各样的污染让他们想离开城市，寻找一种新的平静的生活， **they wanted a more peaceful life in the country**。
- John: **But they didn't want to be too far away from the towns, they wanted all the conveniences of town life, like the shops, cinemas, and sports facilities, but they wanted to be in the countryside too!**
- Oliver: 我们可以用这句话来表达这个意思，就是 **they wanted the best of both worlds**, 鱼与熊掌，都想要。人们希望最好的城市生活，同时也希望最好的乡村生活。他们希望既能够享受到城市生活的便利， **the conveniences of town life**, 也能够享受到乡村生活的宁静和自由。
- John: **People wanted to have their own property and a bit of land as well. But some people say suburbia produced a strange kind of person, neither a town dweller nor a country person – they were without an identity!**
- Oliver: 没错。居住在郊区的人们，既不是城里人， **a town dweller**, 也不是乡下人， **nor a country person**。他们是一群难以界定的人， **without an identity!**
- John: **Yes, this is BBC Learning English with John and Oliver. Today, we're talking about suburbia.**
- Oliver: **Suburbia**, 市郊、郊区，人们居住的介于城镇和乡村之间的区域。在英国，这样的地方非常多。
- John: **We spoke with Deborah Saunt – she's an architect from south London; and Rowan Pelling, a journalist from Cambridge, about their views of suburbia. What do they think of it, did they like it?**
- Oliver: **Deborah Saunt** 是一名建筑师，**Rowan Pelling** 是一名记者，我们采访了这两名对郊区生活很有心得的专业人士，让我们听听他们对郊区生活的看法， **do they like it?**
- John: **Here's Rowan. First, what does she think of suburbia?**

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*There's this ghastly sanitisation of everything in the suburbs and you feel that it's a terrible, terrible compromise between the country and the excitement of urban living, and in fact, you know, actually the very real dangers of living in the countryside where you do have this unpredictable environment where nature can grab you – rivers, and you know farming accidents, all this sort of thing. It's this place for timid, dull people, and actually one of the worst things is that we all like to fantasize about the suburbs and pretend that there's all this incredibly exciting stuff going on and we hope it's David Lynch and we hope it's Desperate Housewives – but we can't bear to look at the real fact that it's just terminal dullness.*

Oliver: Oh dear, I don't think Rowan likes suburbia!

John: I think you're right Oliver – and I can see what Rowan means, because I grew up in suburbia.

Oliver: So you've got experience of it. John 就是在郊区长大的，所以他非常有发言权。So John, what did you think of suburbia?

John: Well, I felt it was a very safe place, but it was boring Oliver! There were lots of nice people, but were they interesting? No, they were not! They weren't interested in anything except themselves, and they weren't interested in what was going on in the world around them!

Oliver: John 告诉我们，他认为在郊区生活很有安全感， it felt safe. 但是生活在那里的人们都很闷， the people were boring!

John: Rowan I think, felt the same way. She said there was a ghastly sanitisation of everything.

Oliver: 死气沉沉的 a ghastly sanitisation. 另外，Rowan 还说，选择郊区生活就是一个巨大的牺牲和妥协， a terrible compromise, 你可能在牺牲掉五光十色的城市生活的同时，也没有能够得到太多的宁静自由的乡村体验。

John: Yes, a terrible compromise – too much of a compromise really – between the country and the excitement of urban living. She said the people were timid.

Oliver: 羞怯的。

John: Dull.

Oliver: 没意思的、呆滞的。

John: There was a terminal dullness!

Oliver: 迟钝到了顶点!听起来 Rowan 真的是非常不喜欢郊区生活!

John: So, who does like suburbia – surely someone must?

Oliver: 没错，我们采访了住在伦敦南部的 Deborah Saunt, 她是一名建筑师，an architect.

John: She says suburbia has changed and the image we have of it is now out of date.

Oliver: Deborah 认为人们应该改变对郊区的看法。因为随着时间的发展，郊区已经不再是以前的样子了，而是变的更好了。让我们先来听听她是怎么说的。

## Insert

*Suburbia doesn't really exist. I mean we just have these incredibly accessible urban environments. You know, I can live in Clapham two miles from Hyde Park and call it a suburb because I get easy access to the city by bicycle and to the countryside in the form of Clapham Common. I have friends who run global businesses from suburban environments – you know, fit women in particular I think. I think we must accept that for today's woman, living in suburbia is fantastic.*

John: So what Deborah is saying is that suburbia has changed. She uses a different term for that, remember what that was Oliver?

Oliver: Yes, incredibly accessible urban environments, 相当强的城市感觉、非常方便。

John: In her suburb, Clapham, Deborah can have easy access to the city by bicycle.

Oliver: 她可以非常容易地骑自行车进城。Easy access.

John: But there is countryside nearby, Clapham Common is nearby.

Oliver: 同时，进入附近的乡村也非常容易。

John: And Deborah believes that today's suburbia is particularly good for women.

Oliver: She says that suburbia is fantastic for women. 郊区生活对女性特别好。她就认识很多女性，经营着全球化的生意，但却住在郊区，suburban environments.

John: So let's go back over what the differences are between town, countryside, and suburbia. Here's Rowan again – if you moved from town to country, what differences would you notice, what is a town like, and what about suburbia?

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*You get a kind of hostility that masks friendliness. They look at you, they stare at you, and then actually they bring around the apple pie; whereas in the city everyone just ignores each other. But in the suburbs, I think there's a kind of faint veneer of friendliness where people say hello over the hedge, but it actually masks a tendency for outright hostility, where they're just waiting for you to do something wrong.*

Oliver Rowan 说在合住在郊区的人接触的时候，一开始可能觉得他们比较冷淡，但实际上他们都非常的友好。Hostility that masks friendliness, 在城里，大家都是互不相干的，everyone ignores you in the city, 但他说在郊区，也有一种假惺惺的亲密 a faint veneer of friendliness, 大家都等着看你的笑话呢，people are just waiting for you to do something wrong.

John Well, let's just go over some of the words we've heard today shall we. We've been talking about suburbia.

Oliver 郊区、市郊。

John: Town.

Oliver: 城镇。

John: Countryside.

Oliver: 乡村。

John: The best of both worlds.

Oliver: 两边得益。

John: The convenience of town life.

Oliver: 便捷快利的城市生活。

John: Ghastly sanitisation.

Oliver: 死气沉沉的。

John: A terrible compromise.

Oliver: 巨大的牺牲和妥协。

John: Urban living.

Oliver: 城市生活。

John: Hostility.

Oliver: 敌意、不友善。

John: OK. Well, we've been talking about suburban life, with our experts Deborah, and Rowan. If you want more help with your English learning have a look at our website - you'll find that at: [www.bbcchina.com.cn](http://www.bbcchina.com.cn).

Oliver: 网址就是 [www.bbcchina.com.cn](http://www.bbcchina.com.cn), 在那里, 你可以找到很多对你英语学习的有帮助的材料。今天节目就到这里, 我们再见吧!

John: Bye!

### Insert

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