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State opening of Parliament

英国国会开幕大典



英伦网

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Yang Li: Welcome to BBC Learning English. I'm Yang Li.

Emily: And I'm Emily.

Yang Li: Today we're talking about the state opening of Parliament 英国国会开幕大典 which took place just this week. Emily, you went to watch the Queen arrive didn't you?

Emily: Yes, I was standing on the pavement opposite the Houses of Parliament when the Queen arrived for the state opening. The atmosphere was buzzing.

Yang Li: The atmosphere was buzzing 气氛很热烈 I can imagine the excitement of being there. But how long did you have to wait for the Queen to arrive Emily?

Emily: Well, we waited for about an hour. But first, the band of the Coldstream Guards arrived.

Yang Li: 你说的是冷溪近卫团 Coldstream Guards.

Emily: Yes the band was playing lots of different music from films and TV programmes while we waited for the Queen. And then the Household Cavalry arrived – lots of men in armour, riding horses.

Yang Li: The Household Cavalry 就是皇家骑兵团, 他们的职责是在重大庆典仪式上向女王提供安全护卫。I imagine that the Queen arrived in a beautiful carriage, am I right?

Emily: Yes it was beautiful. The Queen arrived, in her special horse-drawn carriage. It was very eye-catching. Some of the people waiting cheered and we all took photos as she drove past us. Then she entered the Palace of Westminster through the Sovereign's entrance - that's also called Queen's entrance - and she was guarded by the Household Cavalry.

Li: The Palace of Westminster 西敏宫就是英国议会大楼 The Houses of Parliament 是上下两院议员们参政的地方。

Emily: Well, BBC presenter Huw Edwards describes the arrival of the Queen:

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Huw Edwards: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrive at the Palace of Westminster in the Australian state coach, a gift from the people of Australia back in 1988. It's a little more luxurious and a little more comfortable than some of the other coaches in the mews. So the Queen arrives and there will be a fanfare to signal the Queen's arrival and there will be another signal to the world that she's arrived when the Royal Standard is unfurled.

Yang Li: Wow, what a vivid description from Huw Edwards! 他说英国女王和爱丁堡公爵乘坐的是澳大利亚赠送的一辆国家级马车 state coach, 这比女王的其他马车更舒适更豪华。

Emily: Yes, it was more luxurious and more comfortable.

Yang Li: What other expressions do you think we should highlight, Emily?

Emily: How about fanfare, which is a piece of music played by a brass band to announce somebody's arrival, and on this occasion it was the national anthem.

Yang Li: Fanfare 此处的意思是乐队演奏国歌。

Emily: Another term to note is the Royal Standard. It refers to the Queen's flag which is displayed when she is present.

Yang Li: 英国皇家旗帜。千万不要翻译为皇家标准。

Emily: Finally, we've got the word unfurled, which means opened.

Yang Li: 展开的。

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Captain: Bodyguards move, to the left in file. Left turn! Bodyguards, by the centre, slow march!

Huw Edwards: The Yeomen of the Guard on the way. This was a short while ago. They're officially the Queen's bodyguards and with lanterns and swords at the ready they ensure that all is secure for the Queen to attend the state opening.

Yang Li: 国会开幕大典是英国一项历史悠久的传统，至今仍留存不少繁复的仪式。正如 Huw Edwards 表述的在大典开始前，女王的护身警卫会先巡察国会大楼的里里外外，确保没有安全纰漏。So Emily who are these Yeomen of the Guard?

Emily: Well, They are retired members of the British army, aged between 42 and 55 years old when appointed.

Yang Li: Sounds like a prestigious job.

Emily: Yes, it is, because the state opening of Parliament is very grand ceremonial occasion, that takes place once a year. Let's listen to Huw Edwards again:

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Huw Edwards: Inside the Palace, a glorious view, this is the scene in the House of Lords, where Peers are already claiming their seats for the state opening. It is, without question, the grandest of Parliamentary occasions, when the Queen will be summoning Members of the Commons to the House of Lords and then will unveil the government's legislative programme for the session ahead.

Yang Li: 他说，这是英国国会最庄重的活动了 the grandest of Parliamentary occasions. And of course the Queen's speech is written by the government.

Emily: Yes, that's right, it's a summary of the government's programme of legislation.

Yang Li: 女王讲话体现的是政府的施政计划。Let's listen to the beginning of the Queen's Speech.

Emily: And some Queen's English! Goodbye...

Yang Li: Bye.

Insert (Queen's Speech)

Queen: My Lords and Members of the House of Commons. My government's legislative programme will focus on economic growth, justice and constitutional reform...