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Yang Li: 大家好,我是杨莉。欢迎收听 BBC 英语教学节目《你问我答》。这是一个互动性的教学栏目,你提问我们解答,通过大量例句来说明英语的使用规则和习惯用法,帮助大家提高进取。本周我选择的问题来自李斌,请我的同事 Nick 带读:

Question

I am Li Bin and my question is the usage of 'relief'. For example, "it was a relief to be able to talk to someone about it". The problem is 'relief' is an uncountable noun, so why there is an 'a' before it?

Yang Li: 谢谢李斌。我来回答你的问题,relief 的确是一个不可数名词,但是它也是一个只有单数形式的名词 a singular noun 这就意味着它没有复数形式,所以英国人常常说 "what a relief" 或者 "it was a relief to be able to talk to someone about it", 这句话的汉语意思是“能和一个人谈谈这件事让人有一种解脱感”。在这里 relief 的意思是解脱,解脱痛苦担心等等。下面我们再听几个例句:

Examples

I hate to say it, but it was a relief to have him out of the house.

A: Have you found your cat?

B: Yes, thanks. It was such a relief to have her back. We thought we'd lost her.

Yang Li: 以上两句话里都在 relief 的前面加上了不定冠词 a 表示解除了担忧之感,舒了一口气。注意在表达这个意思时必须加 a - a relief. 这是一种习惯用法。我们再听一遍:

Examples

I hate to say it, but it was a relief to have him out of the house.

A: Have you found your cat?

B: Yes, thanks. It was such a relief to have her back. We thought we'd lost her.

Yang Li: Relief 和许多英语单词一样,有好几个意思。比如救济、救援也是 relief. For example:

Example

I am a relief worker.

Yang Li: 我是一名救济工作者。

Example

I am working to raise money for famine relief to Africa.

Yang Li: 我正在为非洲饥荒募捐而工作。Listen again:

Example

I am a relief worker. I am working to raise money for famine relief to Africa.

Yang Li: Relief 的另外一个用法同税收有关，意思是减免税。

Examples

Employees who donate to charity will receive tax relief.

The government has announced that green industries will get tax relief in the coming year.

Yang Li: 以上两句话里的 relief 都是“减免”的意思。第一句说“参与募捐的雇员将获得税收减免”。

Example

Employees who donate to charity will receive tax relief.

Yang Li: 第二句的意思是“政府宣布绿色行业的企业将得到税收减免”。

Example

The government has announced that green industries will get tax relief in the coming year.

Yang Li: Relief 还有一个重要的用法就是用来表示减轻病痛、痛苦。

Example

I have been prescribed some painkillers for pain relief but the doctor told me not to take too much.

Yang Li: 我拿了一些止疼药帮我减轻病痛，不过医生告我说不要吃太多。Let's listen again.

Example

I have been prescribed some painkillers for pain relief but the doctor told me not to take too much.

Yang Li: 好了，我来总结一下 relief 虽然是不可数名词，但是由于它是一个只有单数形式的名词，所以在表示解脱、舒一口气的时候英国人的习惯说法就是“what a relief!”。接着我又介绍了 relief 的几个其它常见用法。我再次感谢李斌的问题，也希望其他同学踊跃提问，我们的电子邮箱是 questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk. Thanks for listening and see you next time.