

# Q and A of the Week 你问我答

## Toilet terms

### 厕所词汇



- 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。
- 请注意：中文文字内容只提供简体版

**Li:** 大家好我是杨莉。Welcome to another Question and Answer of the Week. 哎，我的搭档是 Rob, Rob... Where's Rob?

**Rob:** Sorry about that Li! I was desperate, I had to spend a penny but I'm fine now, so shall we start?

**Li:** You were spending money in the toilet? Very strange!

**Rob:** Ah no, not exactly. It's just a euphemism we use about going to the toilet.

**Li:** 真的？花一分钱是个婉转的短语，用来表示上厕所或我们常说的去洗手间。I see. But you didn't spend money, did you?

**Rob:** No I didn't. OK, shall we read this week's question? It was sent in from Joranna in Singapore.

#### Insert

*Can someone help me with regard to the phrases 'pass urine', 'pass motion'. In a preschool setting, teachers frequently ask the children "Who wants to pass urine?" or "Did you pass motion?" I normally would ask my children, "Who wants to use the toilet?" Please advise what is the correct phrase or expression to use?  
Thanks from Joranna in Singapore.*

**Li:** Hmm, interesting question. Joranna 想了解并教给她的孩子们在想去上厕所的时候应该说什么。Well Rob, you seem to know some good toilet phrases, so maybe you can answer that one?

**Rob:** Well, this can be an awkward subject to talk about. There are many ways we can explain that we're going to the toilet. To pass motion is something that tends to be said in certain Asian countries. We would usually say pass a motion. I think usually just saying you are going to the toilet is a polite way of telling people without giving too many details.

**Li:** Yes, we certainly don't want all the details. Actually I sometimes just say "I'm off to powder my nose". 我去擦点粉，一会儿就回来。

- Rob:** To powder your nose! What do you want to do that for?
- Li:** I don't, it's a just a nice way of saying I'm off to the toilet.
- Rob:** Ah right. Well, with children you sometimes have to be more specific which is maybe why that teacher said 'to pass urine' or 'to pass motion'. To pass in this context is about discharging something from the body.
- Li:** I see. 'To pass' 意思是排泄。So 'to pass urine' is to urinate 小便。撒尿。And 'to pass motion' Rob?
- Rob:** Is not urinating but discharging something else from the body. A motion in this context is about an evacuation of the bowels. Do you get it?!
- Li:** I do! 这句话的意思就是去解大便。
- Rob:** As I said to pass motion is something that tends to be said in certain Asian countries. In Britain we might say 'a bowel movement'.
- Li:** I see! I think we need to hear some examples, Rob.
- Rob:** Good idea!

### Example

- Woman:** *Doctor it hurts when I pass urine, what can I do?*
- Man:** *Before I prescribe you something, can you tell me when you last had a bowel movement?*
- Li:** These phrases sound very technical and are something that you might use with your doctor.
- Rob:** Exactly. It's quite explicit and not something you would use in everyday conversation.
- Li:** So what should Joranna say to her children then?
- Rob:** Well, it's up to her but I think "Who wants to use the toilet?" says enough. But here are some other suggestions for what you can say...

### Example

- Man:** *Who wants to use the W.C.?*
- Woman:** *Do you need the little boys' room?*
- Man:** *Do you need to visit the loo?*
- Rob:** There are some other names for the toilet. We heard W.C.

**Li:** W.C. 是 **water closet** 这两个词的缩写，意思是厕所。

**Rob:** We also heard: **little boys' room**.

**Li:** 小男孩的屋子，实际上意思就是男厕。

**Rob:** And **loo**.

**Li:** **Loo** 这是英国人对 厕所的通俗称呼 **loo** 厕所。

**Rob:** Also with children you can ask if they want a wee or a poo! But don't go asking any adults!

**Li:** No. OK, I'll remember that. Well Rob this has been a very interesting chat and I hope we've helped Joranna. 如果你碰到英语学习上的问题也请随时给我们发电子邮件 我们的邮箱是 [questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk](mailto:questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk)

**Rob:** We look forward to hearing from you. Now Li, if you could just hold on, I've got something for you...

**Li:** Erm Rob, are you using the little boys' room again?

**Rob:** No, nothing like that! I've just made you a nice hot cup of tea.

**Li:** Oh thanks! Just what I need. Lovely, er... actually, Rob, I think I need to spend a penny now! Sorry.

**Rob:** Oh dear. I think it's time to go. Bye bye.

**Li:** Bye.