

Q and A of the Week 你问我答

Where and whereabouts

哪里和在哪儿



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Jackie: Hello, welcome to Question and Answer of the week! I'm Jackie and with me today is Helen... And with me today is Helen! Helen? Say hello! Oh dear. There's no Helen. Where's Helen? Has anyone seen Helen?

Voices: No! Sorry. Haven't seen her!

Jackie: Hmm... oh dear. What are we going to do? Helen's whereabouts is a mystery.

Helen: Jackie!

Jackie: There you are!

Helen: Yes, I'm really sorry. 不好意思, 我来迟了。你刚才说我什么来着?

Jackie: I was saying 'Helen's whereabouts is a mystery'.

Helen: 我的什么是个谜?

Jackie: Your whereabouts.

Helen: 我的 whereabouts? 听起来怎么有点奇怪? 是我的衣服吗? 我知道我有的时候穿得有点怪。

Jackie: No. Your whereabouts is where you are. Or in this case, where you aren't!

Helen: 我的 whereabouts 是我在哪里。HMM, 那么 where 和 whereabouts 有什么不同呢?

Jackie: Well, that's exactly what Xingzhou from Xi'an wants to know! Xingzhou writes: what's the difference between where and whereabouts?

Helen: 那么让我们赶快来解释一下两个单词的区别吧。

Jackie: Yes!

Helen: 我们知道 where 的意思。

Jackie: Yes, it means at, in, or to what place.

Helen: 是指在某个地方。Where 作为副词，通常出现在问句的开始， 比如：

Examples

Where did you meet him?

Where are you going?

Where's my coat?

Where can I find books about cooking?

I don't know where that came from.

Helen: 也可能被当连词用， 比如：

Examples

Please stay where you are.

I know where there's a good restaurant.

I don't know where I am going.

He should get a good view from where he's sitting.

Helen: 刚才说的是 where 的两种常用用法，那么 whereabouts 又是怎么回事儿呢？

Jackie: Well, whereabouts has a similar meaning, but it's used in a slightly different way. It can mean 'where' or 'approximately where'?

Helen: Whereabouts 可以表示哪里或大概在哪里。

Jackie: For example:

Examples

Whereabouts do you live?

I live near Beijing.

Whereabouts are you from?

I'm from Manchester.

Whereabouts is that great restaurant we went to?

It's by the canal.

Helen: Whereabouts 和 where 意思差不多但更模糊一些。如果你要想知道某人具体住的地方，那么就要问 where, 而不是 whereabouts.

Jackie: Yes, for example, if you wanted someone's exact address, you wouldn't say 'whereabouts' do you live?

Helen: 如果问别人 whereabouts do you live 那么你得到的回答将是比较笼统的地区，而不是具体的地址。如果你问：

Jackie: Where do you live?

- Helen:** 答案既可以是大概地区或方向，也可以是很详细的地址。要想确保人们提供具体的地址，那你还是需要问：
- Jackie:** What's your address? But whereabouts can also be used as a noun to mean the place where something or someone is. It often has a sense of mystery or unknown.
- Helen:** Whereabouts 可以作为名词指某人某物所在的地方。我们经常在不能确定具体地点时用 whereabouts.

Examples

His whereabouts is unknown.

I'm unsure of Jane's whereabouts.

Her whereabouts will be revealed later.

The weapon's whereabouts was never discovered.

- Helen:** 而且需要注意的是我们说某人或某物的 whereabouts 常用在名词所有格后。
- Jackie:** Jane whereabouts is unknown.
- Helen:** 这就不对了，应该是
- Jackie:** Jane's whereabouts is unknown.
- Helen:** 下一句也是不对的。
- Jackie:** I'm unsure of he whereabouts.
- Helen:** 应该是：
- Jackie:** I'm unsure of his whereabouts.
- Helen:** 那么这两个词的关键不同之处我们在用几个例子来解说吧。你说：
- Jackie:** Helen's whereabouts is unknown.
- Helen:** Whereabouts 是个名词，但我们不能说：
- Jackie:** Helen's where is unknown.
- Helen:** 听起来就不对劲儿。要用 where 的话，我们得说：
- Jackie:** It's not known where Helen is. But now we do know where Helen is!
- Helen:** Yes, my whereabouts has been revealed. Here I am!
- Jackie:** I hope that was helpful. For more language questions, go to bbcukchina.com.
- Helen:** 如果你有英语语法难题，请和我们联系，我们的邮箱是 questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk 谢谢收听。Bye bye!

Jackie: Bye!