

Q and A of the Week 你问我答

Adverb position

副词使用方法



- 关于台词的备注:
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William: Hello and welcome to another edition of your favourite programme about English grammar and vocabulary, Question and Answer of the Week. Now we're just waiting for Feifei... ah... that could be her....

FX - Sounds of commotion, crashing

William: Oh dear.

FX – Sound of a vase smashing

Feifei: (off) Oh no!

William: Sit down Feifei, before you do any more damage.

Feifei: 哎呀，这可怎么办呢！我总是不小心，东撞西撞的，弄坏了这么多东西。

William: You know Feifei, I really think that you should get some new glasses.

Feifei: 你说得也有道理，我知道我确实该去配付新眼镜了。But Will, I have a question. You said "I really think you should get some new glasses". Can you also say "I think you should get some really new glasses"?

William: Ah well, that's an interesting question. And as it happens, we have been asked something similar by one of our listeners, Lan Shenzhen from China. Lan Shenzhen sent us an email at questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk and she said:

I have a question about the order of an adverb in a sentence: what is the difference between the sentence "My family really isn't different from yours" and the sentence "My family isn't really different from yours"?

Feifei: 跟我刚才提的问题一样，听友 Lan Shenzhen 的问题是副词 **adverbs**，尤其是在把一个副词用在句子不同位置的时候，意思是否会产生变化。

William: Well we'll come back to Lan Shenzhen's example sentences later in the programme. Now, there are many types of adverbs and they can describe almost any type of word – verbs, adjectives or nouns with articles.

- Feifei:** 副词可用来修饰动词、形容词和加冠词的名词。
- William:** Where you put the adverb in the sentence tells the listener what thing you are describing. I said "I really think you should get some new glasses". And here, the word 'really' comes before 'think' and therefore it emphasises my belief, it says that this is a very strong belief.
- Feifei:** 因为单词 **really** 出现在了动词 **think** 之前, 那么在这个句子里 **really** 主要强调的是 **Will** 对我 **该换** 眼镜的信念。
- William:** However, in the sentence you mentioned - "I think you should get some really new glasses"...
- Feifei:** 'Really' comes before 'new' so these have to be very new, cutting-edge, technologically-advanced glasses. 这里用了单词 **really** 要表达的意思是非常前卫的眼镜。
- William:** Yes, so that difference in meaning is fairly clear. But less clear, and perhaps more important, is where to put the word 'really' in negative statements.
- Feifei:** 我们现在来说说 **negative statement** 否定陈述, 也来具体讲讲 **Lanshen** 提出的问题。
- William:** Listen to these two statements. Which do you think is stronger?

Examples

Voice 1: I don't really like you.

Voice 2: I really don't like you.

- Feifei:** Well, neither of those sentences was very nice!
- William:** No, but which was stronger, Feifei?
- Feifei:** The second one, "I really don't like you".
- William:** That's right. And the reason for that is that here the word 'really' comes before and modifies that negative particle 'don't' so what we're emphasising here is the negative, the fact that I don't like you!
- Feifei:** 副词出现在否定小品词前能加重强调否定语气。

STING

- Feifei:** 那 **Lanshen** 提出的问题呢?
- William:** Well, let's hear her examples again...

...what is the difference between the sentence "my family really isn't different from yours" and the sentence "my family isn't really different from yours"?

- William:** So can you work out the difference in meaning, Feifei?
- Feifei:** Hmm. I think "my family really isn't different from yours" is stronger 我觉得这句话表达出一个很强的信念，就是我们家和你们家之间没有什么太大的差别，我们很相似。
- William:** That's right!
- Feifei:** 那么我们应该怎么理解另一个例句呢？ "my family isn't really different from yours"?
- William:** Well in fact here, the word 'really' has a slightly different function. So far we've discussed how you can use the word 'really' to add emphasis. But you can also use it to soften what you say.
- Feifei:** 单词 really 除了有加强语气的意思之外，还可以减弱语气？这又是怎么个说法？
- William:** I know, it's difficult, but if you say "my family isn't really different from yours" it's sort of saying yes, there are some differences, but not many. Now, we can also use the word really at the start of a sentence. And this again has a slightly different function – it sort of means: this is what I think about this whole issue. It summarises my belief.
- Feifei:** 如果在句首用 really, 那么 really 总结你说话的中心意思。能给我们举个例子吗
William?
- William:** Yes. How about this: "Really Feifei, I think you need to get some new glasses!"
- Feifei:** Oh, stop talking about my glasses!
- William:** Ok. Time to go – thanks for your question, Lan Shenzhen, I really did enjoy answering it.
- Feifei:** Ha ha – and don't forget our email address: questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk. Bye!
- William:** Bye.