BBC LEARNING ENGLISH Q and A of the Week 你问我答 Like a duck to water "如鱼得水"的英文表达



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Helen

大家好,欢迎收听BBC英语教学的《你问我答》。我是Helen,在这档节目中我们会回答同学们在英语学习中碰到的一些问题。大家可以通过电子邮件把问题发给我们,我们的邮箱是questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk。

好,今天我们要回答的问题来自Zhang Jing 同学,由我代读。

Question

Hello, my name is Zhang Jing, a Chinese English learner. I learnt the idiom like a duck to water, 如鱼得水 I also learn the same meaning 如鱼得水 from books, but in English it is feel like fish in water, is this correct or native speaking? Thank you very much.

Helen

谢谢Zhang Jing 的提问, 这是一个有关成语"如鱼得水"的问题。在英语里也有一个意思相似的成语,可以用来形容非常适应新环境或者做什么事情一教就会了, 这就是"take to something like a duck to water 做什么事情象鸭子下水游泳一样,马上就会了"。那么如果我们把"如鱼得水"直接说成"like a fish in water",这可以吗?英语里有没有这种说法?

首先和大家说一下,英语里没有 take to something like a fish in water 这个说法,这不是一个英语成语。英国本地人是不会这么说的。

Take to something like a duck to water 是成语。大家可以这么理解,鸭子是在陆地上长大的,当鸭子第一次下水的时候,是换了全新的环境,不过一点儿都不用耽心,鸭子会游水是天性,不用教都会。可是鱼不一样,鱼只能在水里生活,它是不能在陆地上存活的,所以英语里没有 take to something like a fish in water 这种说法。

如果想说某人非常适应新的环境,比如我的姐姐特别喜欢看书,结果找到了一份在图书馆的工作,真是如鱼得水。这句话用英语可以这么说: "My sister loves books, when she found a new job at the library, she took to it like a duck to water."

让我们再来看看几个例句:

Examples

The new playground is very popular. The kids took to it like ducks to water. 新修建的儿童乐园特别热门。孩子们到了那里简直是如鱼得水。

David is very good at maths. He took to programming like a duck to water. David 的数学特别好。他对编程,一学就会了。

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Cathy had never skied before, but she took to it like a duck to water. Cathy 从来没有滑过雪,不过她一学就会,真是如鱼得水。

Helen

我们也可以省略 take to something, 只说 like a duck to water,意思是一样的,可以形容某人有天赋,一教就会。请听例句:

Example

She's a natural at tennis and learnt very quickly, like a duck to water. 她有打网球的天赋,学得很快,就像鸭子天生会游泳一样。

Helen

接下来让我们一起来学习两个和"duck鸭子"有关的成语表达。

第一个 "like water off a duck's back 象水珠从鸭背上滑落一样",意思是说了跟没说一样,根本没听进去。比如给某人忠告的时候,对方根本不听。请听例句:

Example

I warned Peter not to drive too fast, but it was like water off a duck's back. He had a crash yesterday, thankfully no one was hurt. 我跟Peter 说过别开快车,可是就跟没说一样。结果他昨天撞车了,幸好没人受伤。

Helen

第二个表达 "lame duck"字面意思是"瘸了脚的鸭子",实际意思是指没有用的人,或者是即将卸任的政府官员,没有太多实权。请听例句:

Example

It's really frustrating that the managing director is a lame duck and can't make any decisions. 特别令人沮丧,总经理没有什么实权,做不了任何决策。

Helen

好了,希望我们解答了Zhang Jing 同学的问题。成语"如鱼得水"用英文说,最恰当的表达是"take to something like a duck to water"。谢谢收听,我们下次节目再会。