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Plastic Bags 塑料袋

Jo: Hello I'm Jo and you're listening to Ask About Britain from BBC Learning English, the programme where we answer your questions about how British people live their lives. With me today is Jean. Hi Jean.

Jean: Hello there.

Jo: Dai Yuan Hong comes from Chongqing and he's a student in London. He asked us this.

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Does the government have any plan for protecting the environment to stop people using plastic bags in supermarkets?

Jean: 原来这位姓 Dai Yuan Hong 爱的朋友想了解的是，英国的政府是不是有计划要呼吁人们不要再使用超市的塑料袋子 **plastic bags** 来保护我们的环境。

Jo: To protect the environment. Now first of all let's take a closer look at why using plastic bags is such a problem.

Jean: 让我们先来听听下面一段 BBC 新闻报道的片断。

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Once they've been discarded with the rubbish it takes more than 100 years to get rid of these traditional plastic carrier bags. As a nation we use a staggering 8 billion plastic bags every year – that's the equivalent of 135 each.

Jo: So once a plastic bag has been discarded with the rubbish. To discard.

Jean: 去丢弃。To discard. 我们还听到了 rubbish 这个词，在英国英语里就是垃圾的意思。

Jo: So once a plastic bag has been discarded with the rubbish, it takes more than 100 years to get rid of the bags. To get rid of.

- Jean:** 摆脱掉、打发掉。原来我们使用的普通塑料袋子在垃圾填埋地里需要 **100 年** 的时间才能彻底自然分解掉。
- Jo:** **That's a staggering amount of time isn't it?**
- Jean:** 确实是令人吃惊的一个数字。
- Jo:** **And as a nation...**
- Jean:** 对一个国家来说。
- Jo:** **As a nation, people in the UK use a staggering 8 billion plastic bags every year. Yes, 8 billion. One billion is 1,000,000,000!**
- Jean:** **A billion** 十亿。英国全国的人每年会使用一共 **80 亿** 个塑料袋子，平均每年每个英国人会使用 **135** 个塑料袋。
- Jo:** **The equivalent of 135 bags per person every year.**
- On today's Ask About Britain from BBC Learning English, Dai Yuan Hong from Chongqing wants to know if the government has a plan to stop people using these plastic bags in supermarkets to protect the environment.**
- Jean:** 所以这位叫 **Dai Yuan Hong** 的朋友，我们给你的回答就是，虽然英国现在还没有官方的政策正式禁止或者减少使用塑料袋，不过现在英国举国上下都在讨论是否应该颁布一条超市塑料袋子使用的税收条例。
- Jo:** **Yes a bag tax. So if shoppers want a plastic bag when they go to the supermarket they have to pay 10p for one, or 1.5 Yuan. They think this might help reduce the number of plastic bags used. Here's another part of a BBC report telling us why.**

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There is a precedent for the bag tax. Ireland started taxing its plastic bags by about the same amount. Within months their use had dropped by 90%.

- Jo:** **So there is a precedent for bag tax. A precedent.**
- Jean:** 一个先例。爱尔兰的政府就颁布了一项塑料袋子使用方面的税收规定，几个月后，爱尔兰当地的塑料袋使用量就大大的降低了。
- Jo:** **Yes, within months their use had dropped by 90%.**
- Jean:** **That's quite a lot. Diana Wallis** 是就职于欧盟立法机构的一位英国政治家，她认为塑料袋使用税收条例是应当在英国进行全面推行的。

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It's an incentive to get us to change our behaviour and not use so many plastic bags. What we can do is take a re-usable bag down to the supermarket with us each time.

- Jo:** She says it's an incentive to get us to change our behaviour.
- Jean:** 一个鼓励我们改变行为习惯的机制。她建议英国民众应该使用一个可再使用的购物袋在超市购物。
- Jo:** A re-usable bag.
- So Dai Yuan Hong, we hope that helps to answer your question a little.**
- Jean:** 而登陆我们的网站 www.bbcchina.com.cn 点击 **Learning English**, 大家就会看到我们对更多有关英国的有趣问题所作的解答。好, 我们今天的节目就到这里 – **see you next time.**
- Jo:** **Bye!**