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Henry VIII 亨利八世

Helen: Welcome to Ask About Britain from BBC Learning English, the programme where we answer your questions about life in the UK.

Oliver: 欢迎大家收听我们 BBC 英语教学为您特别制作的《英国问答》节目。在这档节目中我们为您解答有关英国文化与生活方面的一些问题。

Helen: Today we have a very short question from Shuli who wrote to us from Shanghai.

Oliver: 来自上海的淑丽给我们发来 email, 她的问题非常精短。

Helen: But I'm not sure if we can answer it in just 5 minutes. It's going to be a challenge.

Oliver: So what is her question?

Helen: She would like to know who Henry VIII was?

Oliver: 亨利八世是谁? That's a short enough question.

Helen: I put the Shuli's question to Victoria Wallace who works at the world famous Leeds Castle in Kent:

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Henry VIII was a very powerful monarch who came to the throne in the 16th century. He was enormously influential in changing Britain.

Oliver: 就像 Victoria 说的那样, 亨利八世是一个非常有能力,非常强势的皇室成员。

Helen: A very powerful monarch who came to the throne in the 16th century.

Oliver: 在 1509 年, 他成为了英国国王, came to the throne, 登上了皇位。

Helen: And he was enormously influential in changing Britain.

Oliver: 有影响的 influential, 亨利八世对英国历史的进程产生过非常大的影响。

Helen: He lasted almost four decades, and one of the most important changes he brought to the country was laying the foundation of the Church of England.

Oliver: 数十年 **decades**, 亨利八世统治了英国将近四十年。从历史和宗教的角度来说, 亨利八世做过的最重要的事情之一就是为英国创建了英格兰教会。

Helen: This religious change came all about because of Henry's desire to have a son. Let's hear more from Victoria.

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He married one woman, and they stayed married for 20 years, but she failed to produce a son for him. So at that stage, Britain came under the Catholic Church; he created a schism with the Catholic Church and set up his own Church of England, in his quest for a woman who would give him a wife, so he could divorce his first wife who was a Spanish princess.

Helen: Sounds rather complicated, doesn't it?

Oliver: Yes, it does. 亨利八世娶了一位西班牙公主, 他们的婚姻延续了二十年。

Helen: But she failed to produce a son for him. They did have a daughter though.

Oliver: 看来英国历史上也是有过重男轻女的, 尤其是亨利八世。

Helen: So Henry wanted to divorce his first wife, so he could marry again. But to do so, he needed the approval of the Pope in Rome.

Oliver: 离婚就是 **divorce**, 那时候的英格兰是属于罗马天主教 **Catholic** 管辖范围之内。

Helen: And the Pope said no.

Oliver: Henry 提出离婚的请求被罗马教皇 **the Pope** 给拒绝了。

Helen: But Henry wasn't about to give up, so he created a schism with the Catholic Church. Schism means a division into two groups, caused by disagreement of ideas.

Oliver: **Schism** 这个词的意思就是由于意见分歧而造成了教会的分裂。后来亨利八世创建了英格兰教会, 封自己为教主, 然后成功离婚了。

Helen: But he didn't just remarry once, he's famous for having quite a number of wives. Here is the story.

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He then married an English girl from Kent, just down the road, who produced him a daughter. He got rid of her by chopping her head off. He then remarried another English girl this time, who did finally produce him a son, but sadly died in the process. After that he married three more times.

- Oliver:** 这么说就一点儿也不奇怪，亨利八世这么有名，他娶过六个皇后。我觉得他的第一任妻子和他离婚倒是一件幸运的事情。
- Helen:** **The second wife was an English girl and she gave him a daughter; that's not good news for Henry.**
- Oliver:** 那怎么办啊？
- Helen:** **Henry decided to get rid off her by chopping her head off.**
- Oliver:** **Oh my god!**
- Helen:** **And then he married another English girl who gave him a son he so desperately wanted.**
- Oliver:** 终于有了一个儿子，接下来又发生了什么事情呢？
- Helen:** **Sadly the third wife died giving birth.**
- Oliver:** 很不幸，她死于难产。所以，亨利八世只有再次结婚了。
- Helen:** **That's right, the fifth wife was beheaded as well, and the last wife outlived him.**
- Oliver:** 现在你知道了，亨利八世在历史课本里这么有名一点也不奇怪，他一共有过六个妻子，而且还杀死了其中的两个。
- Helen:** **Well that's all we have time for today in Ask About Britain. I hope you now know a bit more about the famous Henry VIII.**
- Oliver:** **Bye.**
- Helen:** **Bye.**

Glossary

came to the throne	登上皇位
influential	有影响力的
divorce	离婚
the Church of England	英格兰教会
schism	意见分歧（指宗教信仰）
decade	十年