

BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

About this script

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Gordon Brown 戈登·布朗

Neil: Hello and welcome to Ask About Britain, the programme where we answer your questions about British life and culture. I'm Neil.

Feifei: 大家好，我是冯菲菲。如果各位想了解英国生活的各个方面，有任何问题，在英国问答节目当中我们都会为您作出解答。

Neil: Chris, from Beijing University, wants to know a little more about the Prime Minister of the UK – Gordon Brown.

Feifei: 戈登·布朗 Gordon Brown 英国现任首相。来自北京大学的 Chris 和他的朋友们对布朗还不很了解，那今天就在我们的节目当中一起来听听布朗儿时的玩伴和政界的要人对他有怎样的评价。

Neil: A man of many faces, but which is Gordon Brown? A dour political obsessive, a towering intellectual, the saviour of his party, or as friends claim – a genial joker behind a serious facade?

Feifei: 严肃的政治家，高超的知识分子，工党的救星还是像他的好友所说的，他其实是一个外表严肃然而和蔼可亲，爱开玩笑的人？ Here is Derek Scott, Tony Blair's former Economic Adviser.

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The extraordinary thing about him in many ways was I mean – Gordon Brown is apparently an intellectually self-confident man, but outside the small group of people with whom he feels confident and at ease, he's not really very keen on engaging in discussions particularly if you disagree with him – I find that slightly odd.

Neil: He says the extraordinary thing about Mr. Brown is that he's an intellectually self-confident man.

Feifei: Extraordinary 不寻常的，特殊的。 Intellectually self-confident man 就是说布朗是一个对自己的智力非常自信的人。

- Neil: But, he says, outside the small group of people with whom he feels confident and at ease, he's not very keen on engaging in discussions, especially if you disagree with him.
- Feifei: Hmm, that sounds a bit strange. Derek 说布朗不喜欢在让他感到拘束的人面前说出个人观点, **at ease** 让人感到舒适而无忧虑的, 完全松弛的; 他更不喜欢和不熟悉的人讨论任何问题, 尤其是当你和他的看法有分歧的时候。 **Keen on** 喜欢做某事, **engage in discussions** 展开讨论。
- Neil: But friends since university days say that's a misjudgement. They insist that not only is Mr Brown a willing team-player, but that he can also let his hair down.
- Feifei: 可是和他在大学就认识了的朋友坚持说这是一个错误的概念 **misjudgement**. 他们说布朗不仅仅是一个 **willing team-player** 乐于参与的团队成员, 他同时也知道怎么 **let his hair down** 放松一下。 **Let's listen**.

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Gordon knows how to enjoy himself.

Enjoys a good glass of wine, enjoys good company, a good drink – very – great bon-viveur actually, great entertainer. Both Gordon and Sarah are renowned for their entertaining dinners.

- Neil: So he enjoys a good glass of wine, good company and a good drink. He says he's a great bon-viveur and a great entertainer.
- Feifei: What is a bon-viveur?
- Neil: It's a French word, it means this person enjoys life to the full.
- Feifei: **Bon-viveur** 是一个法语词, 意思就是说一个非常会享受生活的人。
- Neil: Yes, Gordon and his wife Sarah are renowned for their entertaining dinners.
- Feifei: **Be renowned for**, 有声望的。任何的晚宴只要有布朗和他的太太 **Sarah** 在场, 那一定会是笑声不断。
- Neil: They say Gordon learnt his lesson in compassion and duty at the knee of his father and it's stayed with him throughout his adult life.
- Feifei: **Compassion** 同情, 怜悯; **duty** 责任, 义务。布朗儿时就从父亲那里学到了做人要有的同情心和义务感。 **Here is Lord Elder, Gordon's childhood friend**.

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The sense of commitment and responsibility and doing the best you can for your fellow citizens is something that was a strong feature of the Brown household. And it must have had a huge impact on him – I'm sure it did – and I think that's where his sense of duty and responsibility come from.

Neil: He says the Brown household has a great sense of commitment and responsibility and want to do the best they can for their fellow citizens.

Feifei: Commitment 承诺; responsibility 责任。 It was this commitment and responsibility that have had a huge impact on Gordon. Impact 影响。
Now I have a question, what is he like as a father?

Neil: Well, his friends say he's a terribly enthusiastic, doting, tolerant, loving father.

Feifei: Enthusiastic 满腔热情的; doting 溺爱的; tolerant 宽容的; loving 慈爱的。

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A terribly enthusiastic doting, tolerant, loving father. Which with John as a very bubbly two-and-a-bit-year-old, is just fun to watch.

Neil: Hope we've told you a little more about Gordon Brown. If you have any other questions about British life and culture, send us an email at chinaelt@bbc.co.uk.

Feifei: 如果大家想了解更多关于英国生活和文化以及英语学习的方方面面，都可以登陆我们的网站 www.bbcchina.com.cn. Thanks for listening and see you next time.

Neil: See you!

Glossary

political 政治的	joker 爱开玩笑的人
intellectual 知识分子	keen on 喜欢做某事
extraordinary 不平常的，特别的	engage in discussions 展开讨论

at ease 让人感到舒适而无忧虑的	错误的概念 misjudgement
keen on 喜欢做某事	self-confident 自信的
team-player 团队的成员	let one's hair down 放松一下
bon-viveur 非常会享受生活的人	be renowned for 有声望的
compassion 同情, 怜悯	duty 责任, 义务
enthusiastic 满腔热情的	doting 溺爱的
tolerant 宽容的	loving 慈爱的