

BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

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Gap Years

Vicki: Hello and welcome to Ask About Britain. I'm Vicki.

OLIVER: 还有我, Oliver, 在英国问答节目中, 我们会回答来自听众关于英国生活得各种问题。

Vicki: Pham Hang emailed us and asked 'Don't students in the UK go to university right after school? Because here, we graduate in June and take the entrance exam for university in the same year.'

OLIVER: 这位听众想知道, 英国的学生在完成高中课程后是不是会直接升入大学继续学习呢?

Vicki: Well, some British people do start university in the September after they finish school in the summer. But it's quite popular to take a gap year, or year out.

OLIVER: 也就是说休学一年。这个介于高中和大学之间的一年叫学业间隙年, 那学生们通常在这一年里会作些什么呢? 难道整个 'gap year' 只是休息吗?

Vicki: Let's hear from some people who took a gap year and see what they did during that year.

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- I was on a 9 month placement at Deloitte, and then I travelled after that.
- I was working for 6 months, then I travelled to South America and volunteered there for 2 months.
- I travelled round Europe for a while, and then did some voluntary work, in a few orphanages in Romania.

Vicki: So a gap year can be partly about getting some work experience, for example in a work placement in a company you're interested in.

OLIVER: A work placement – 通常指的是学生在公司工作的一段时间，有的时候有收入，有的时候没有收入。

Vicki: Or you might just work in any job for part of the year, to earn some money in order to travel afterwards.

OLIVER: Travelling – 这可是很多学生在他们学业间隙的这一年里最重要的事情之一。

Vicki: Some people travel just to visit lots of different places, and other people live and work abroad for a while.

OLIVER: 如果他们在海外的时候，可能会做些有收入的工作，或者也会做些没有收入的工作。

Vicki: Unpaid work is called voluntary work. You can say I did some volunteer work, or I volunteered. One person there said he had done some voluntary work in some orphanages.

OLIVER: orphanages – 孤儿院。

Vicki: Volunteering abroad is one of the most popular things that people do on their gap years.

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- I went to South America and volunteered for 2 months.

- I did some voluntary work, in a few orphanages in Romania.

OLIVER: 节目开始的时候，我们已经听到了有些英国学生在高中毕业后选择休学一年而不是直接升入大学。这一年间，他们通常会很多的事情，包括旅行，做志愿者等等。

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OLIVER: 作为大学来讲，他们是怎么看待这一年的呢？他们会认为学生们在浪费时间吗？或者他们认为用一年的时间去做这些事情很有意义？

Vicki: We spoke to Professor Phil Whitfield, one of the four Vice-Principals at Kings College University of London.

OLIVER: 他认为，总得来讲这是对学生有积极影响的一件好事情。积极的

Vicki: Positive

Insert

Travelling the world, seeing new people, seeing new cultures, I think it's a very positive impact, and I think anyone who's been abroad realise it's a fantastically mind-expanding and educational experience.

Vicki: Professor Whitfield said that travelling and having experiences of other cultures can be mind-expanding.

OLIVER: Mind-expanding – 更强烈的感受到

Vicki: Universities in Britain they recognise that it can benefit the student even if what you do on your gap year isn't actually educational.

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Without a specific educational component, for some young people, the maturing process which half a year or a year abroad can bring, can be very beneficial.

Vicki: The maturing process

OLIVER: 成长，成熟的过程

Vicki: Can be beneficial

OLIVER: Beneficial – 有益的

Vicki: But not everyone decides to have a gap year before university of course, and some decide to do it at another time.

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*- I think it's a better idea to take one after you graduate than before.
- I went straight to university. I would've loved to have had a gap year, but it's never too late to do it now!*

Vicki: So some people might take a gap year after they graduate – it's never too late!

OLIVER: 不论什么时间去感受世界永远都不会晚，你甚至可以在毕业之后去做。

Vicki: Professor Whitfield told us why he thinks people want to have a gap year.

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I think some of our students do think – well if I don't go and see the world now I'm going to be behind a desk or in a laboratory for the next 10 years.

OLIVER: 对很多人来讲，一旦他们开始工作，可能就会在实验室里或办公桌后一干就是十年，根本没有机会去看看外面的世界。

Vicki: Well, I hope you've found it interesting to hear about British students taking gap years.

OLIVER: 好了，今天的节目就到这里，别忘了登陆我们的网站提出你的问题，您可以发邮件到: chinaelt@bbc.co.uk

Vicki: chinaelt@bbc.co.uk

OLIVER: 再见。

Vicki: Bye!

Glossary

gap year 学业间隙年	volunteering 志愿者
travelling 旅行	to graduate 毕业
educational 教育的	maturing 成熟
beneficial 有益的	mind-expanding 强烈的感觉到