### **BBC LEARNING ENGLISH**

# Q and A of the Week 你问我答

## Sure, certain, definite

三个表示"确定"的形容词



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#### Feifei

大家好,欢迎收听 BBC 英语教学的"你问我答"节目,我是冯菲菲。这档节目回答大家在英语学习中遇到的各种难题和疑问。本期节目要回答的问题来自半夏,我们来听一下她的问题。

#### Question

老师,您好,我发现"sure、certain"和"definite"都有表示"确定的、肯定的"意思,它们之间可以互换吗?它们有哪些固定搭配?

半夏

#### Feifei

谢谢半夏发来的问题。单词"sure、certain"和"definite"都是形容词,都有"确定的,肯定的"意思。虽然它们的意思相近,但用法却不完全相同,也不能随意互换,这是因为能与"sure、certain"和"definite"搭配使用的动词和介词是不一样的。

我们通过一段音频来对比分析它们之间的区别。音频中讲述了一个聚会策划人"a party planner"预订蛋糕的故事。

#### **Example**

The party planner was **certain** that everything was ready. He had asked the bakery to deliver the cake at Ipm and had been very **definite** about its design and colour. The dancers would arrive at 3 – that was **definite**. The caterers had been told to make **sure** there was enough vegetarian and vegan food. He was **sure** that everything would go smoothly.

#### **Feifei**

这段话的大致意思是:一个聚会策划人很确定一切都万无一失。他订了一个蛋糕,而且对送货时间、外形设计和颜色都非常确定。他还安排了舞蹈表演,并确定表演者会准时到场。策划人还确保给吃素食和严格素食的客人们准备了足够的饭菜。他确信一切都会按计划进行。

下面我们就通过分析"sure、certain"和"definite"在这段话中的用法来对比它们的共同点和区别。首先,如果一件事情"a thing is sure/certain/definite",那么这件事情就非常有可能发生。如果一个人对一件事情感到"sure、certain"或"definite",那么这个人则对这件事情会按照计划发展不抱有任何的疑问。这三个词的后面都可以接以"that"引导的从句,也都可以和介词"about"搭配使用。在下面这两句话中,"sure、certain"和"definite"可以互换使用,句意不发生改变。

#### **Examples**

The party planner was certain/sure/definite that everything was ready.

He was sure/certain/definite that everything would go smoothly.

#### Feifei

形容词 "sure"和 "certain"的后面都可以接介词 "of"—— be sure of/be certain of。来听一句话,在这句话中, "sure"和 "certain"可以互换使用,句意不发生改变,但不能用"definite"。

#### **Example**

The team had never been so certain/sure of winning before. They were very sure/certain of their coming victory.

(这支队伍以前从来没有这么有把握能赢比赛。他们对即将到来的胜利确信无疑。)

#### Feifei

所以说,"definite"的后面只能跟"about"—— definite about,或"definite"加"that"引导的从句,来表示对一件事情极其清楚、非常明确,毫无疑问。比如,故事中提到聚会策划人"让面包房在下午一点送货,而且对蛋糕的样式和颜色的要求非常明确"。

#### Example

He had asked the bakery to deliver the cake at Ipm and had been very definite about its design and colour.

#### Feifei

下面,我们来介绍几个包含"sure"和"certain"的常用搭配。我们可以说"make sure"确保,确定,也可以说"make certain"确保。比如,上面的小故事里提到: "负责餐饮的工作人员被告知要确保有足够的素食和纯素食品"。

#### Example

The caterers had been told to make sure/certain there was enough vegetarian and vegan food.

#### Feifei

搭配 "be sure/certain of something"也有"保证,确认"的意思;而"be sure/certain of someone"的意思则是"相信某人,对某人有信心"。来听两个用到了"be sure of someone"和"be certain of someone"的例句。

#### **Examples**

You can always be sure of your family. We will never let you down.

(你可以相信你的家人们。我们永远不会让你失望。)

She's always very certain of herself. She doesn't get intimidated by difficult tasks.

(她总是很自信,从来不会被困难的任务吓倒。)

#### Feifei

除了上面的这几个搭配外,"be sure/certain to"后面加上动词原形可以表达事情"肯定,一定会发生"。这里,"sure"和"certain"可以互换使用。

#### **Examples**

She's sure/certain to fall asleep as soon as she arrives home from work.

You should take part in the race! You're certain/sure to win!

#### Feifei

在口头交流中,大家可能会常听到英语为母语的人说: "for sure"和"for certain",这个表达方式通常是用来解释一件事情是"极有可能,确定无疑地,肯定地"。"For sure"和"for certain"的意思和用法都完全一样。请听两个例句。

#### **Examples**

One thing's for sure, I'll never eat at this restaurant again!

I know for certain that I'm flying to America next week.

#### Feifei

上面我们讲了"sure、definite"和"certain"都是形容词,意思非常相似,虽然"sure"和"certain"突出表达一个人对某件事情是非常"确定的",而"definite"则更多被用来强调对某件事情的细节是"非常确定的、清楚的"。在很多情况下,这三个词语都可以相互替换使用,但具体能否替换还要根据与其搭配的动词和介词而定。"Sure"和"certain"的动词和介词搭配用法几乎完全相同,所以基本上可以随意互换使用。

好了,如果你在英语学习中遇到了疑问,可以把问题发送到我们的邮箱,邮箱地址是questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk,你也可以通过微博"BBC英语教学"与我们取得联系。谢谢收听"你问我答"节目。我是冯菲菲。下次再见!