



請注意：中文文字内容只提供簡體版

全球都在学英语，而且有越来越多的人出国学习，爱尔兰就是其中之一。该国的语言学校说尽管经济不景气，可是他们的生意却越来越兴隆。BBC记者 McDonald 有以下报道：

Oliver Lyons runs the Swan Institute, which has been **a fixture on** Dublin's main shopping street for the past decade. His school attracts around 4,000 students a year from Europe and **beyond**, with more and more coming from the Middle East and China.

This year, many schools like Oliver's are reporting extra business, due, they think, to the Olympics in London. Some even suggest that reports of higher costs for accommodation and flights into the UK might have led more students to choose Ireland. And the Irish accent, rather than being viewed as a **handicap**, is actually quite **sought after** by students, Oliver says: "Irish English tends to be pretty clear in its pronunciation, easier to actually study. People have said that, for example, in the UK, in advertising agencies, the Irish accent is considered attractive because it's got no particular **class connotation**, and it's a warm, friendly, **inflection** and **tone**. I think people find that attractive."

And how do you tell if someone's studied English here or not? The **clue** is in what Oliver tells me is **the rhotic 'r'**:

"In Irish English when we speak we simply put the 'r' - we pronounce it when it's actually there, when it's not there, we don't pronounce it."

"So give me an example - a difference between ..."

"Law. When we say 'the law', we don't say 'the law-r'."

So next time you meet an English language student, listen out for that 'r'. Apparently, **it's a giveaway**.

### Questions

1. Has the economic downturn reduced the number of students going to Ireland to learn English?
2. Why do a lot of people prefer to learn Irish English?
3. Can you tell an Irish speaker's social status from the way he/she speaks?
4. What does the word 'giveaway' mean?

### Glossary 词汇

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>A fixture on</b>      | 一个固定的部分   |
| <b>beyond</b>            | 更远的/...之外的  |
| <b>a fixture on</b>      | 弱点  |
| <b>sought after</b>      | 寻求, 追求  |
| <b>class connotation</b> | 社会等级内涵  |
| <b>inflection</b>        | 音调变化  |
| <b>tone</b>              | 语气/音调   |
| <b>clue</b>              | 线索  |
| <b>the rhotic 'r'</b>    | (英语方言)有r儿音的。在爱尔兰英语里,字母'r'一般都要读出'r'音来,这一点同英语不一样(比如 <i>butter, hard, world</i> ). |
| <b>it's a giveaway</b>   | 无意中泄露的事(或物)   |

### Answers to the questions

1. Has the economic downturn reduced the number of students going Ireland to learn English?

**Answer:** *No. There are more and more students going to Ireland to study.*

2. Why do some people prefer to learn Irish English?

**Answer:** Because "Irish English tends to be pretty clear in its pronunciation, easier to actually study".

3. Can you tell an Irish speaker's social status from the way he/she speaks?

**Answer:** No. Irish English is said to have no particular class connotation, according to Oliver Lyons.

4. What does the word 'giveaway' mean?

**Answer:** It means something that makes it very easy to guess.