

## Singing the national anthem 唱国歌

*Vocabulary: National pride* 与民族自豪感有关的词语

Every athlete dreams of that moment: standing on the highest podium, having a gold medal hung around their neck and watching with pride, as their country's flag is raised and the national anthem is played.



International sports stars are used to being under the spotlight, but nowadays their vocal performance can be subject to as much scrutiny as their athletic ability.

For many people, the national anthem is an important tradition, symbolizing a country's history and uniting a nation in glory. Singing the anthem is often considered an essential part of sporting etiquette and respect. Failing to sing along can lead to questions in the media: is an athlete making a political statement, or are they simply embarrassed by singing in public?

UK Athletics head coach Charles van Commenee insisted that athletes would learn the words to the national anthem before the London 2012 games in order to head off any potential criticism of "plastic Brits" – athletes with dual nationality who switched allegiance to represent Team GB at the Olympics.

However, not all competitors feel quite so patriotic. The Team GB football squad came under fire when Welsh footballers Ryan Giggs and Craig Bellamy stood in silence as their team mates sang "God Save the Queen."

Although it is not clear whether the players were actively boycotting the anthem or simply felt awkward singing in front of the cameras, they were criticised by many in the media for not showing respect for their nation. Those with republican views argue that they can still represent their country without having to sing the pro-monarchy song.

But any British gold-medal athletes who sit on the fence over the issue now have an added incentive to project their voices loudly: British newspaper columnist Piers Morgan feels so passionate about the UK anthem that he has pledged to donate £1000 to a children's hospital for every British athlete who sings during their gold medal ceremony.

Winning a gold medal can transform an athlete from a relative unknown to national hero, but it seems that failing to sing the national anthem - however bad their singing ability - could cause more embarrassment than staying silent.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

## Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. According to the article, what are 'plastic Brits'?
2. What adjective means to be a supporter of your country?
3. What word describes someone who is anti-monarchist?
4. What expression is used to describe people who don't have a fixed opinion on something?
5. What noun means 'awkwardness' or 'shame'?

## Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Wearing a white dress is an important \_\_\_\_\_ for weddings in Britain.

history	etiquette	tradition	ritual
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2. With a university place at stake, David was \_\_\_\_\_ to gain top marks in his exam.

under pressure	under the spotlight	under control	under fire
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3. I really love watching the athletics – I feel so \_\_\_\_\_ about it!

political	pressure	patriotic	passionate
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4. I would never want to be a television presenter, I'd feel so \_\_\_\_\_ speaking in public.

embarrassed	criticised	respectful	heroic
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5. It was Jessica's dream to \_\_\_\_\_ her country in the Olympic Games .

respect	represent	review	retire
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## Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

### Quiz 小测验

1. According to the article, what are 'plastic Brits'? Athletes with dual nationality who choose to represent Great Britain
2. What adjective means to be a supporter of your country? Patriotic
3. What word describes someone who is anti-monarchist? Republican
4. What expression is used to describe people who don't have a fixed opinion on something? Sitting on the fence
5. What noun means 'awkwardness' or 'shame'? Embarrassment

### Exercise 练习

1. Wearing a white dress is an important tradition for weddings in Britain.
2. With a university place at stake, David was under pressure to gain top marks in his exam.
3. I really love watching the athletics – I feel so passionate about it!
4. I would never want to be a television presenter, I'd feel so embarrassed speaking in public.
5. It was Jessica's dream to represent her country in the Olympic Games .

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>pride</b>	自豪
<b>national anthem</b>	国歌
<b>under the spotlight</b>	成为众人的注目焦点
<b>performance</b>	表现
<b>tradition</b>	传统
<b>uniting</b>	团结
<b>glory</b>	光荣, 荣耀
<b>etiquette</b>	礼节
<b>political statement</b>	政治声明
<b>embarrassed</b>	尴尬的
<b>allegiance</b>	效忠, 拥护
<b>dual nationality</b>	双重国籍
<b>patriotic</b>	爱国的
<b>boycotting</b>	抵制
<b>republican</b>	共和(国)的
<b>represent their country</b>	代表他们的国家
<b>pro-monarchy</b>	支持君主立宪(制)
<b>passionate</b>	(充满)热情的
<b>ceremony</b>	仪式
<b>national hero</b>	名族英雄