BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Question and Answer of the Week 你问我答辨析近义说法:



testify, certify, verify, confirm and bear out

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Jiaying

大家好,欢迎收听 BBC 英语教学的"你问我答"节目,我是佳莹。这档节目解答广大的英语爱好者在学英语时遇到的难题。本期节目的问题来自听众 Lee,问题由我来代读。

Question

我很喜欢你们的节目。请问"testify、certify、verify、confirm"和"bear out"都有"证实,证明"的意思,它们到底该怎么区分呀?

Jiaying

听众 Lee 想知道这五个说法的区别。"Testify、certify、verify、confirm"和"bear out"都可以用来表示"确认事情或信息",但是用法却不同。

先来看动词"testify"。"Testify"是正式的法律用语。在法庭上,动词"testify"的意思是"宣誓作证,出庭作证"。听两个例句。

Examples

She testified that her husband had been with her at the time of the crime.

(她出庭作证说,案发时她丈夫和她在一起。)

You need to testify in court tomorrow.

(你明天需要出庭作证。)

Jiaying

另外,"testify"也可以表示"事件或事实表明或证明某事属实",后面常接介词"to",和动词"validate"的意思相近。

Examples

The results of the test testify to the fact that this is the fastest car.

(测试结果证明这是最快的汽车。)

As his writing style testifies, he was a great romantic writer.

(正如他的写作风格所示,他是一位伟大的浪漫主义作家。)

Jiaying

下面,来看动词"certify"。"Certify"的意思也是"证明某事属实",但它多指书面形式上的认证。虽然其它几个说法的意思也都和"证实"有关,但"certify"是在谈论书面证明时最合适的用词。来听两个例句。

Examples

The toy was certified safe for children.

(该玩具经认证对儿童是安全的。)

The lawyer said she would certify that my documents were translated properly.

(律师说过她会证明我的文件是如实翻译的。)

Jiaying

动词 "certify" 还可以用来表示"证明某人具有从事某项工作的技能和资格"。用来证明具备某种技能的文件通常被称为"certificate(证明,证书)"。

Examples

Sharon is a certified physician and works at the hospital.

(莎朗是一名认证医生,在这家医院工作。)

Fang Wen was certified as an accountant when he left university.

(方文大学毕业时被认证为具有会计师资格。)

Jiaying

动词"verify"和"confirm"都有"证实"的含义。从这层意义上说,"verify"更正式一些,而"confirm"则更常用于口语交流中。相比之下,"verify"强调"确认某事的真实性",而动词"confirm"的用法则相对更广泛。听两个例句,句子中分别使用了动词"verify"和"confirm"。

Examples

Is there anyone who can verify where you were on the night of the 17th? (有人能证实 17 日晚上你在哪里吗?)

Can I just confirm that the flight leaves at 22.30?

(我能确认一下航班是 22 点 30 分起飞吗?)

Jiaying

我们继续说"confirm"。"Confirm"也用来表示"确认会出席会议或活动",这个"confirm"常以电话或书面的形式完成,而其它几个说法都不能这样使用。

Examples

Fourteen guests have confirmed their attendance at next week's party. (已有 14 位客人确认出席下周的聚会。)

Can you email and ask everyone to confirm their attendance to the meeting? (你能发邮件让所有与会人员确认出席吗?)

Jiaying

最后,"bear out"的意思是"证实某事",常用于被动语态中,也就是"borne out(得到证实)"。这个短语通常用来描述"一个普遍为人所信的说法的起源得到了证实"。

Examples

The claims he made aren't borne out by any scientific evidence. (他的说法没有得到任何科学证据的证实。)

The manager's claim that productivity was down was borne out by the sales figures. (经理称生产力有所下降,这个说法得到了销售数字的证实。)

Jiaying

概括地说,"testify"的意思是"在法律背景下或以法律身份确认某信息";动词"certify"表示"书面确认某事属实"或"证明某人有技能或资格从事某项工作";动词"verify"和"confirm"都有"核实信息"的意思,"verify"比"confirm"更正式一点,"confirm"还可以表示"确认出席活动"; "bear out"的意思是"支持或证实某事"。

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