

## Fantasy world Brits 英式英语独霸幻想世界

*Vocabulary: fiction and fantasy* 学习点: 虚构和幻想

If you used your imagination to create a fantasy world, what accent would the characters speak in?

This month sees the return of the successful American television series, *Game of Thrones*. Set in a fantasy world of mythical castles and charming princesses, it is notable that all of the characters speak in British accents.



British actors have long portrayed sneering villains or brutish baddies in Hollywood films. From Dr Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence of the Lambs* to the Sheriff of Nottingham in *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, the hero can be American but his rival often speaks with a stiff British accent whilst curling his lip.

And now the same British accent is casting a spell over fantasy worlds too. From *The Lord of the Rings* to *The Hobbit*, Brits are frequently the stars of these filmic fantasy yarns.

Fantasy fiction is conjured up from old history books and folklore. So some people say that, as the English language is rooted in the medieval era, it carries a tradition and culture suited to the genre.

Historical screen sagas include bewitching British accents too. This flight of fancy goes unchallenged even when they are set in ancient Rome or Greece. So a British accent often works its magic for these historical or fantasy tales as it provides an enchanting link to the past for modern audiences.

After all, would the triumph of the Harry Potter films have been such a fairytale success if he had spoken with an American accent?

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. Is this statement true, false or not given? *British actors have long portrayed weak villains or lazy baddies in Hollywood.*
2. What was the name of the villain in *The Silence of the Lambs*?
3. As well as history books, where else is fantasy fiction conjured up from?
4. What two words are other names to describe old stories?
5. What expression is used to refer to an unexpected and very good outcome?

## 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. This is the extraordinary story of how a small piece of metal is rewriting the epic \_\_\_\_\_ of how civilisation first came to Europe.

baddie	saga	charm	root
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2. It is clear that this proposal is not realistic and is a complete \_\_\_\_\_.

magic	genre	folklore	flight of fancy
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3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Morris dancing in England goes back to the 15th century.

tradition	rooted	sneering	mythical
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4. This painting competition will really capture the \_\_\_\_\_ of school children throughout the country.

yarns	imagination	spell	folklore
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5. I loved the concert tonight. The singer was absolutely \_\_\_\_\_.

sneering	boring	enchanted	repulsive
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## Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

### Quiz 小测验

1. Is this statement true, false or not given? British actors have long portrayed weak villains or lazy baddies in Hollywood. False, British actors have long portrayed sneering villains or brutish baddies in Hollywood films.
2. What was the name of the villain in The Silence of the Lambs? Dr Hannibal Lecter
3. As well as history books, where else is fantasy fiction conjured up from? folklore
4. What two words are other names to describe old stories? yarns, sagas
5. What expression is used to refer to an unexpected and very good outcome? a fairytale success

### Exercise 练习

1. This is the extraordinary story of how a small piece of metal is rewriting the epic saga of how civilisation first came to Europe.
2. It is clear that this proposal is not realistic and is a complete flight of fancy.
3. The tradition of Morris dancing in England goes back to the 15th century.
4. This painting competition will really capture the imagination of school children throughout the country.
5. I loved the concert tonight. The singer was absolutely enchanting.

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>imagination</b>	想象力
<b>fantasy world</b>	幻想世界
<b>mythical</b>	神话的
<b>charming</b>	迷人的
<b>sneering villains</b>	已嘲弄他人为乐的恶人
<b>brutish baddies</b>	凶恶的人
<b>curling his lip</b>	卷曲着自己的嘴唇
<b>casting a spell</b>	下咒语
<b>yarns</b>	有趣的故事
<b>conjured up</b>	想象源于
<b>folklore</b>	民间传说
<b>rooted</b>	生根于
<b>medieval era</b>	中世纪时期
<b>tradition</b>	传统
<b>genre</b>	类别，风格
<b>sagas</b>	长篇小说
<b>bewitching</b>	引人入胜的
<b>flight of fancy</b>	异想天开
<b>works its magic</b>	施展魔力，达到成功
<b>enchanted</b>	迷人的
<b>fairytale success</b>	出人意料的好结果