



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

The Budget
财政预算

The Budget 财政预算

New Chancellor delivers annual financial statement 英国新财政大臣公布年度财政预算

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

It's the time of year when the British taxpayer finds out how much the cost of beer, cigarettes and petrol - amongst other things - will go up in the coming twelve months.

The Budget is the annual financial statement and review of the levels of taxation. The Budget speech includes a statement of the Government's medium-term financial strategy and the short-term economic forecast.

Taxes are used by the government to try to control the British economy as well as to raise revenue to meet expenditure for the year.

However, people are mainly interested in how changes in taxes and benefits will affect them. For example, if income tax goes up they will have less money, but parents may be happy because child benefit has risen.

The Budget speech is prepared and delivered by the finance minister, known as the chancellor of the exchequer, or simply 'the chancellor' for short.

A number of traditions surround the Budget speech. For example, the chancellor gets to his feet in the House of Commons at 12:30 pm. He is heard uninterrupted by members of parliament.

According to tradition, the chancellor is allowed to drink alcohol during the speech, though these days water is preferred.

The statement lasts about an hour. Afterwards, the leader of the opposition gets a chance to respond and criticise the government's plans. Four days of general debate follow.

This year's Budget is the first since Gordon Brown became prime minister. Alistair Darling, his replacement at the Treasury, makes his first Budget speech since becoming Chancellor.

Glossary 词汇表

| | |
|--|--|
| taxpayer 纳税人 | the budget 预算 |
| financial statement 财务报告 | taxation 税收 |
| medium-term financial strategy 中期金融策略 | short-term economic forecast 短期经济前景预报 |
| revenue 收入 | expenditure 支出 |
| benefits 福利 | income tax 个人所得税 |
| child benefit 儿童福利 | finance minister 财政部长 |
| chancellor of the exchequer (英国对财政部长的称呼) 财政大臣 | House of Commons 下院 (众议院) |
| uninterrupted 不被打断的 | members of parliament 议会成员 |
| leader of the opposition 反对党领导 | criticise 批评 |
| general debate 广泛的讨论 | the Treasury 财政部 |

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. The Budget happens twice a year. True / False
2. The Budget announces tax rises to pay for government spending. True / False
3. The British finance minister is known as the chancellor of the exchequer. True / False
4. Gordon Brown is the chancellor of the exchequer. True / False
5. There is a discussion in parliament about the budget for days afterwards. True / False

2. Reading Quiz 2 阅读测验 2

Answer the following questions about the text. You should write a short answer (1 to 6 words). 熟读了上文后, 请用1-6个词简单地回答下列问题.

1. Who finds out about changes to taxation?

2. What are taxes used for?

3. What is the finance minister known as in Britain?

4. What time does he start his speech?

5. How long does the speech last?

Now choose the correct answer, a, b or c. 从a, b, c中选出正确答案.

6. The Budget happens once a _____.

a. year

b. month

c. week

7. The government's _____ financial strategy is announced.

a. short-term

b. long-term

c. medium-term

8. Money for people who have children is called child _____ .

a. tax

b. money

c. benefit

9. The chancellor is allowed to drink alcohol _____ his speech.

a. before

b. during

c. after

10. The leader of the opposition _____ the statement.

a. ignores

b. criticises

c. argues

3. Jumbled Sentences 打乱词序的句子

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

请将下列句子中的单词重新排列，组成一个正确的句子。

1. Budget the is the statement financial annual.
2. how them are changes interested in tax people affect mainly.
3. The known chancellor minister is as the finance.
4. traditions a Budget of surround the number speech.
5. is Darling the new Alistair chancellor called.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with New Year's Eve in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与有财政预算有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| t | a | x | p | a | y | e | r | f | c | m | p |
| d | p | d | e | d | a | b | e | i | r | l | a |
| b | u | d | g | e | t | t | v | n | i | u | r |
| w | e | a | b | b | j | q | e | a | t | f | l |
| t | a | x | w | a | h | w | n | n | i | d | i |
| t | y | u | f | t | l | e | u | c | c | a | a |
| a | s | w | q | e | n | r | e | i | i | r | m |
| e | r | f | a | l | b | t | u | a | s | y | e |
| w | a | n | y | s | o | y | i | l | e | p | n |
| b | e | n | e | f | i | t | o | s | a | x | t |
| n | i | l | k | c | u | f | p | t | u | r | u |
| m | i | n | i | s | t | e | r | i | d | u | q |

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| taxpayer | budget | tax | benefits | minister |
| revenue | financial | criticise | debate | |
| parliament | | | | |

Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. True

2. Reading Quiz 2 阅读测验 2

Answer the following questions about the text. You should write a short answer (1 to 6 words). 熟读了上文后, 请用1-6个词简单地回答下列问题。

1. The British taxpayer.
2. To raise revenue and meet expenditure.
3. The chancellor of the exchequer.
4. At 12:30.
5. About an hour.

Now choose the correct answer, a, b or c. 从a, b, c中选出正确答案。

6. a. year.
7. c. medium-term.
8. c. benefit.
9. b. during.
10. b. criticises.

3. Jumbled Sentences 打乱词序的句子

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

请将下列句子中的单词重新排列, 组成一个正确的句子。

1. The Budget is the annual financial statement.
2. People are mainly interested in how tax changes affect them.
3. The finance minister is known as the chancellor.
4. A number of traditions surround the Budget.
5. The new chancellor is called Alistair Darling.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| t | a | x | p | a | y | e | r | f | c | p |
| | | | | d | | e | i | r | a | |
| b | u | d | g | e | t | | v | n | i | r |
| | | | | b | | e | a | t | l | |
| t | a | x | | a | | n | n | i | i | |
| | | | | t | | u | c | c | a | |
| | | | | e | | e | i | i | m | |
| | | | | | | | a | s | e | |
| | | | | | | | l | e | n | |
| b | e | n | e | f | i | t | | | | t |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| m | i | n | i | s | t | e | r | | | |