
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Food for Thought



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NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

(Feifei finds Finn in the company canteen)

Feifei

Hi Finn. What are you doing here sitting alone in the canteen? Can I sit with you?

Finn

Sure. Take a seat, Feifei.

Feifei

Mind if I take a chip? They look good.

Finn

Oh yeah, go ahead! I'm just eating this quickly as I'm going out soon, you know? I'm going to take a look at a car. It's a sports car! I've always wanted one.

Feifei

A sports car? Sounds expensive. How can you afford a sports car?

Finn

Well, it's a second-hand car. The owner needs to sell it quickly so they're selling it really cheaply. What a great opportunity, huh?!

Feifei

These sports cars burn a lot of fuel, you know, Finn. The car might come cheap but do you want to end up keeping it in a garage?

Finn

Well, I hadn't thought of that...

Feifei

And there's also insurance. A car like that will attract thieves, so it'll cost a lot...

Finn

That's right. You know... you've just given me some food for thought...

Feifei

Food? You want more food? I thought you wanted to finish eating quickly?

Finn

I'm not talking about real food. In English, when you say 'food for thought' you mean serious ideas or topics for us to think about.

Feifei

Nothing to do with chips, then?

Finn

No food involved. 'Food for thought' is today's expression in *The English We Speak*. Let's hear some examples of how it's used.

INSERT

The football coach was really disappointed when his team lost 3-0 to an amateur side. But it gave him food for thought.

Mary's divorce gave her food for thought. She decided to go back to university, get a diploma, and change her life around.

Feifei

So Finn, are you going to buy this sports car?

Finn

I'm not so sure now. You have indeed given me food for thought.

Feifei

(Chewing)... Mmmm... these are good...

Finn

My chips! Feifei, you've taken all my chips?!

Feifei

Sorry Finn. They looked so good and I thought you were in a rush.

Finn

I was, until you gave me... food for thought!

Feifei

Ok – let me get another plate. Chips are much better than sports cars anyway. Let's just focus on the eating today.

Finn

Yeah, and let's do the thinking another day! Bye.

Feifei

Bye.