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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### Don't throw the baby out



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

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(The doorbell rings, the door opens)

**Finn**

Hi, Feifei. Fancy a lift to the office?

**Feifei**

Hello, Finn. Sorry, I'm not actually going in to the office today. I'm taking care of my niece.

(Baby talks)

**Finn**

Oh, what a sweet baby!

**Feifei**

Isn't she adorable? You know, I'm thinking about becoming a full-time babysitter!

**Finn**

Oh, really?

**Feifei**

Hang on, Finn. (To the baby) Time for your bath, little one!

(Baby laughs)

**Finn**

But Feifei, you don't actually want to change your job, do you?

**Feifei**

Well, I enjoy my job. But sometimes, you know, it can be very stressful. I feel like a change...

**Finn**

Really? But you're so good at your job! I know how you love completing projects. And we'd all miss you so much.

**Feifei**

I know. But dealing with babies is so much easier.

**Finn**

Well, just don't throw the baby out with the bathwater, Feifei.

**Feifei**

What do you mean?! I know how to take care of a baby. Why would I throw her out?

(Baby crying)

**Feifei**

See what you've done.

**Finn**

Sorry! 'Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater' is an English idiom which means: 'don't lose something valuable while we're getting rid of something else that we don't want'. So I was talking about your job, Feifei. Just because you find it stressful – that's the thing you don't want – don't stop completely and lose what's valuable.

**Feifei**

Ah, I see. So you think my job gives me satisfaction, in spite of the long hours in the office... so I shouldn't give it up.

**Finn**

That's right. 'Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater' is the expression in this edition of *The English We Speak*. Now let's hear some examples of how it's used.

**INSERT**

I know you don't like the dress, but I think if you make a few changes to it, it will look lovely. It's such beautiful material. Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. I know the wallpaper is ugly, but this is a lovely house. We can always redecorate.

**Feifei**

Thank you, Finn. Having colleagues like you who care for me is so important. You know what? I don't want to be a babysitter after all.

**Finn**

That's the spirit!

**Feifei**

So... here's the baby and ... well, the nappies are in that drawer.

**Finn**

Feifei, what do you mean?

**Feifei**

Well, Finn, someone has to take care of the baby. I'm going to the office. See you later. Bye!

**Finn**

And I'm left holding the baby... Bye!

**Baby**

Ba... Ba...

## **AUDIO**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/the-english-we-speak/ep-141014>