The English We Speak

Proof is in the pudding

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

Rob
Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. I am Rob.

Feifei
Hello everyone. I am Feifei.

Rob
Can you guess what I have brought for you to try?

Feifei
No, but I hope it's not one of those… errr, disgusting pies you always make.

Rob
Hey, come on Feifei have some faith in me. I know you like fried dumplings a lot, so I have made these pork and chive dumplings especially for you!

Feifei
Fried dumplings? They look more like burnt dumplings.

Rob
Just try one – I'm sure you'll like it.

Feifei
Rob, they just don't look that appetising.

Rob
Trust me Feifei, the proof is in the pudding.

Feifei
In the pudding? Aren't these supposed to be dumplings?

Rob
Yes, these are dumplings. But I used the phrase 'the proof is in the pudding' to mean you can only judge the quality of something after you've tried it or used it.
Feifei
I see. So 'the proof is in the pudding' is actually a real saying?

Rob
Yes, it is. In the old days, people used to say 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating' – which means you have to eat the pudding to know what's inside it.

Feifei
I like that saying. Although it does mean I've got to try your dumplings to know how bad they are.

Rob
Oh Feifei! Just give them a try – you won't be disappointed.

Feifei
OK, OK. I'll try some. But first, let's hear some examples of how to use the phrase 'the proof is in the pudding'.

INSERT
A: I don't believe this new flash washing machine can save water and energy.
B: But you haven't used it yet. The proof is the pudding.
A: This second-hand car does look a bit old – can you still drive it?
B: Well, why don't you test drive it? The proof is in the pudding.

A: Do you think this will work?
B: I don't know. But let's wait and see – the proof is in the pudding.

Rob
Remember, in English we use the saying 'the proof is in the pudding' to mean you can judge the value or the quality of something only after you have tried it, experienced it or used it.

Feifei
(Feifei munching away…) Mmmm, yes, yes…

Rob
So Feifei, do you like the dumplings?

Feifei
Yes, I do Rob. I really like the pork and chive filling.

Rob
I've finally made something you like!
Feifei
As you say Rob: "the proof is in the pudding"!

Rob
Thank you for listening to The English We Speak.

Feifei
And do check out our website bbclearningenglish.com for more useful phrases.

Rob
Bye.

Feifei
Bye bye.