
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

The penny dropped



This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

I love this shop, Rob! It has everything you need and then things you don't even know you need! Look at this suitcase! Real leather. Very smart. I'm getting the beige one. Take the black one for yourself, Rob.

Rob

I can't buy anything at the moment, Feifei. I haven't got any money.

Feifei

You should save some money so you can buy things like this. Here - this one is a bit smaller and costs less... Oh, mine is big and luxurious though...

Rob

I did save some money but I lent it to a friend last month and I'm still waiting to be paid back.

Feifei

Oh, Rob. You shouldn't lend money to just anybody... Oh! I love that handbag too...

Rob

Really?! Yes, last month someone came to me and said she needed some cash desperately for the rent.

Feifei

Oh... Oh, that's right! It was me... Sorry, Rob. I completely forgot...

Rob

Well, finally the penny dropped!

Feifei

Where? Where? You can't be dropping your pennies if you need cash! Let me help you to find them.

Rob

It's not on the floor, Feifei. In English when we say 'the penny dropped' we mean somebody has finally realised or understood something.

Feifei

Well, so let's hear some examples of how this expression is used.

Examples

Susan keeps postponing the wedding, Joe. When is the penny going to drop? She doesn't love you!

*If your boss doesn't appreciate you, why not leave a job advert from another company on your desk?
That will make the penny drop!*

Feifei

What an interesting expression. I'll pay you back, Rob. I promise.

Rob

Thank you. I'm glad because I want to buy one of these suitcases and they cost a pretty penny.

Feifei

Oh! Enough penny expressions for today, Rob. Bye!

Rob

Bye bye!