Feifei
Hello, this is The English We Speak, with me Feifei…

Rob
[singing badly] And me Rob. Hello!

Feifei
Err Rob, what is that terrible noise?

Rob
Noise? This is my best singing voice – I need it for my new job.

Feifei
You didn't tell me you were leaving the BBC and going to a new job.

Rob
I'm not – I've got a new part-time job in the evenings to earn a bit of extra cash [tries singing again].

Feifei
Hmm – and this second job involves singing, does it?

Rob
Yes, that's right. I'm going to be a cabaret singer in a nightclub. Good news isn't it?

Feifei
Well, Rob, don't give up the day job!

Rob
Oh – that's an expression which means someone's not very good at doing something and isn't likely ever to be successful at doing it.

Feifei
Yes – but it's used in a humorous and light-hearted way Rob. Sorry, I was trying to be nice.
Rob
OK. Well, I think we'd better hear some examples of this phrase in action while I continue to practice my singing [starts singing again].

Feifei
Oh no!

Examples
I wouldn't give up the day job - you're never going to be an actor!

Do you really want to be a writer? I've read your first book and my advice is 'don't give up the day job'!

Don't give up the day job Pete - you're never going to earn a living as a singer!

Feifei
So 'don't give up the day job' means you should continue doing your normal job, rather than trying to turn your hobby into a career. So Rob, have you got the message?

Rob
Oh yes, I should stick to what I'm good at – so I'll concentrate of doing the day job shall I?

Feifei
Yes, good idea.

Rob
OK, so why we don't we sing together and entertain our listeners [starts singing]!!

Feifei
Oh Rob, perhaps you should give up the day job as well.

Rob
Oh thanks.

Both
Bye!