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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### In good nick

The logo for BBC Learning English, featuring the letters 'BBC' in a white box above the words 'LEARNING ENGLISH' in white text on a teal background.

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

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**Helen**

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Helen and joining me today is Neil.

**Neil**

Hello everyone.

**Helen**

So Neil, where did you go last weekend?

**Neil**

I went to a car boot sale near my home. There were lots of sellers getting rid of unwanted Christmas presents.

**Helen**

So did you manage to pick up any bargains?

**Neil**

Plenty, I got presents for my kids to last the rest of the year. And I picked up this little gem. Look!

**Helen**

What is it?

**Neil**

It's an old silver English coin.

**Helen**

Is it real? It looks quite new to me.

**Neil**

It does, doesn't it? I had a close look and it's in good nick.

**Helen**

Good Nick? Who's Nick?

**Neil**

Oh, I don't mean Nick as a person's name. When British people say 'it's in good nick', we mean 'it's in good condition', especially if it's something that's very old but still looks new. Here are a few examples:

**Examples**

I picked up a set of silver plates from an antique shop and they were in pretty good nick.

My grandpa loves his 1960s motorbike and has worked very hard to keep it in good nick.

**Neil**

I know it sounds a bit strange to use a word that's like a person's name in this phrase, but it's very authentic colloquial British English. 'Nick' here is slang for 'condition'.

**Helen**

I see. Can we use the phrase to describe anything else in good condition?

**Neil**

Absolutely, how about my grandmother, she's 96 and still does her own shopping, she's in good nick.

**Helen**

That's impressive. I hope I'll be in good nick when I get to her age.

**Neil**

Keep fit and eat well!

**Both**

Bye.