
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Crash course



This is not a word-for-word transcript

Neil

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Neil.

Helen

Hello everyone. I'm Helen.

Neil

I saw you looking at a travel magazine earlier. Are you thinking about a holiday?

Helen

Yes, I have actually booked a holiday in the Amazon rainforest.

Neil

Really, that sounds amazing. When are you going?

Helen

In a month's time, I'm really looking forward to it. Have you been there?

Neil

No to the rainforest, but I've visited Brazil with my friends. It's a beautiful country. Can you speak Portuguese?

Helen

No, not at all. I was hoping English is enough.

Neil

Erm, if you are visiting the big cities, you can get by with English. But out of the cities, it's good to know a bit of Portuguese and about the local culture.

Helen

Oh dear, I am hopeless with languages. They are so difficult to master and take years to learn. I don't have years. I've got weeks to sort out my adventure.

Neil

Don't worry, you can go on a crash course.

Helen

What course?

Neil

A language crash course! When you are on a crash course, you learn about something in a very short period of time.

Helen

But will it work for me?

Neil

Well, that depends on your learning ability. I think you'd master the basics without any trouble. Here are a few more examples of crash courses on offer:

Examples

Peter applied to train as a teacher, but he had to complete a compulsory crash course in maths first.

Alison did a crash course in French before her trip to Paris.

I booked Nathan on a video editing crash course, so we've got at least one person who can operate the camera.

Julie took a crash course in cooking to prepare for her wedding.

Helen

Can you recommend a Portuguese crash course for me?

Neil

Just have a look online, there are loads of them and some of them are free.

Helen

Perfect! Thanks Neil!