
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

You're pulling my leg!



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This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

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

Rob

... and hello, I'm Rob. So Feifei, how was your holiday – did you go anywhere special?

Feifei

Yes, I did. I went walking.

Rob

Very healthy. And where did you go?

Feifei

Oh, I walked up Mount Everest.... It was tough and cold but I made it.

Rob

Oh... You walked up Mount Everest – the highest mountain in the world? Are you sure?

Feifei

You don't think I'm fit enough to do it, do you?

Rob

Come on Feifei, you're pulling my leg.

Feifei

I'm not even touching you.

Rob

No, I don't mean you're actually pulling my leg – I mean you're lying aren't you? You're joking with me?

Feifei

You think I'm not telling the truth – I'm tricking you? But am I?!

Rob

Come on Feifei, stop teasing me – you didn't do it did you?

Feifei

I did. I'll show you some photos. But let me hear some more examples of the phrase in action first...

Examples

A: So I got to the restaurant and sat down at my table and guess who was sitting at the next table – George Clooney!

B: You're pulling my leg!

I was pulling his leg when I said I was going to marry Jenny. But he believed me and bought me a present!

Oh stop pulling my leg – you can't have won the lottery, you didn't even buy a ticket!

Feifei

So, to pull someone's leg means to fool or trick them but in a fun way. Look at this photo Rob, you can see how much snow there was on Everest – and look, there's me on top.

Rob

Hold on – this is a trick photo – you had this taken in one of those photo-booths where you stand in front of a big screen. You're not pulling my leg!

Feifei

Ooo... ouch... actually...

Rob

It looks like you've pulled something in your own leg – a muscle, maybe? Who's the fool now?

Feifei

Ok, I didn't walk up Everest. I was teasing you but you almost believed me!

Rob

Didn't.

Feifei

Did!

Rob

Did not.

Feifei

Did.