
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

The university of life



This is not a word-for-word transcript

Rob

Hello welcome to The English We Speak from BBC Learning English. I'm Rob.

Feifei

Oh hello...I'm Feifei.

Rob

What's wrong Feifei?

Feifei

I'm stressed – I've got an exam tomorrow – I hate exams.

Rob

Me too. What you need to do is plan your revision a bit more, take lots of breaks, and maybe go for a run.

Feifei

You seem to know a lot about preparing for exams. Where did you study?

Rob

Oh nowhere you would have heard of. It's called the university of life.

Feifei

The university of life. Is that in London?

Rob

It's doesn't actually exist – when someone says they've been to the university of life it means they are wise but not necessarily educated – they've learnt everything just from experiencing life.

Feifei

I see. Hmm, so no exams.

Rob

That's right. I've just got a qualification in life! Let's hear some more examples of this phrase...

Examples

I set up the business without any qualifications – everything I learnt was from the university of life.

The university of life taught me to be polite to everyone you meet; you never know when you might see them again.

Feifei

The university of life – it's where you learn from life not books. So I should learn a lesson from you Rob?

Rob

Yes, chill out – don't stress about exams – they're a waste of time.

Feifei

Really!!! Hold on a minute. If I remember correctly, you failed your exams and you were kicked out of university.

Rob

Well...err... maybe. But that was a life experience... and I learned that studying wasn't for me.

Feifei

Hmmm, it sounds like you've been to The school of hard knocks.

Rob

The school of hard knocks?

Feifei

Yes, it's an unpleasant experience that you learn from. Anyway, I'm off to revise for my exams – I'd rather stay at my university rather than go to yours!

Rob

Fair enough.

Both

Bye.