
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Barefaced

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This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

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

Rob

Hi everyone. Oh, Feifei, what a lovely day it is today.

Feifei

What? It's raining. You seem to be in a good mood.

Rob

Yes, yes. I've done all my work and the boss has given me the rest of the day off... so I'm off now! Bye bye.

Feifei

Hold on Rob! Could you at least stay and present this programme?

Rob

Oh OK then. I suppose there's no rush to go shopping and spend the bonus he's given me is there?

Feifei

Oh come on Rob. This doesn't sound like our boss. You're telling me a barefaced lie.

Rob

Barefaced? No no, this really is my hairy face – look!

Feifei

No – the word 'barefaced' can literally mean 'having no beard' but we also use the word to mean 'without any disguise' or 'being deliberately bold and shameless'. So Rob is a 'barefaced liar' because he's obviously telling a lie without any embarrassment. Sorry Rob, I think you're lying but let's hear some more examples of this phrase...

Examples

The company's claim that profits had jumped by ten per cent was obviously a barefaced lie.

John was at the pub last night bragging about his goal-scoring again – but we all know he's a barefaced liar.

Feifei

Someone being barefaced means doing something without shame and Rob – you are being a deliberate and outrageous liar aren't you?

Rob

Oh well, yes. I was doing it to show you how great I am.

Feifei

Well it didn't work – and I'm going to show you my 'bear' face now.

[BEAR ROAR FX]

Rob

Wow that's a real 'bear' face, but at least you haven't got a beard – although if you did have one, maybe you'd look less... fat?

Feifei

Huh! Barefaced cheek!

Rob

Time to go I think. Bye.

Feifei

Bye.