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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### The heat is on



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

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#### **Neil**

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. In this programme we have an expression which you can use when you are under a lot of pressure. I'm Neil and joining me is Feifei.

#### **Feifei**

Hello.

#### **Neil**

Feifei, if you don't mind me saying, you're looking a little... informal today.

#### **Feifei**

Well it's true I wouldn't normally come to work in my beachwear but you did warn me about the temperature.

#### **Neil**

The temperature? To be honest the temperature feels pretty normal in here today and... well, no one else is wearing a bikini.

#### **Feifei**

So why did you text me to say, 'Just to warn you, the heat is on'?

#### **Neil**

Ahhh I see. I meant that we've got to record and publish the programme by midday – so we're under pressure to get it done. The expression 'the heat is on' is not actually connected to the temperature... Sorry.

#### **Feifei**

(embarrassed) Right. OK. Let's hear some examples while I wrap myself in a towel:

#### **Examples**

The deadline's tomorrow and we haven't even started! The heat's really on now.

The heat is on for United. If they don't win their last 5 matches they'll lose their place in the Premier League.

**Feifei**

So, 'the heat is on' is an expression you can use to describe a high-pressure situation.

**Neil**

Yes and the heat might really be on for you now, Feifei.

**Feifei**

What do you mean?

**Neil**

Well, swimwear is against the office dress code. Look out! Here come the BBC fashion police.

**Feifei**

Quick – throw me my flip-flops and I'll run!

**Neil**

Off you go. Bye!