
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Snowflake



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This is not a word-for-word transcript

Neil

...Hello and welcome to The English We Speak, I'm Neil. (conspiratorially) Feifei will be joining me in just a second. She's a little bit... sensitive, so I'm going to try to deliberately upset her - just to teach you an expression in English!

Feifei

(enters) Hi Neil

Neil

Oh hi Feifei! What do you think of the new Justin Bieber album?

Feifei

Oh it's just great. I love it!

Neil

Really? (Pause) I think it's rubbish. You must have terrible taste to like Justin Bieber.

Feifei

Neil that's so rude!

Neil

It's not rude – it's just a difference of opinion. Honestly Feifei, you're such a snowflake.

Feifei

Oh you mean beautiful and totally unique?!

Neil

Err, no... I mean you melt easily. You can call someone who gets offended or upset too easily a 'snowflake'. Here are some examples:

Examples

A so-called friend of mine deleted a comment I made on his social media page just because I didn't agree with him. What a snowflake.

There are so many places you can express yourself these days but at the same time everyone gets offended so easily. You can see why it's called 'generation snowflake'.

Neil

Generation snowflake. This expression refers to young adults who are too sensitive to handle criticism of their opinions.

Feifei

This is pretty insulting, Neil.

Neil

It IS pretty insulting, Feifei – but you're only upset because you're such a snowflake...
(backtracking) Though, of course you're also unique and beautiful...

Feifei

Oh I see – trying to be nice in case you offend me? Who's the snowflake now, Neil!?

Neil

Well it's just better if we all get along, isn't it? Bye!

Feifei

Bye!