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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### It beats me



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

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**Feifei**

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

**Rob**

...and hello, I'm Rob.

**Feifei**

Hey Rob, do you know what's going on in the office today? The boss has been shouting, Helen's crying and Neil doesn't look very happy either.

**Rob**

Beats me.

**Feifei**

Oh, ok then.

**Rob**

Ouch. What did you do that for?

**Feifei**

You said 'beat me'.

**Rob**

No, no – I mean it beats me... ouch!

**Feifei**

You are strange Rob.

**Rob**

No Feifei. I said 'it beats me' to mean I don't know or I don't understand something.

**Feifei**

I knew that Rob – I just liked hitting you with this stick!

**Rob**

Very funny. Shall we hear some examples?

## **Examples**

It beats me how Stephanie ever got that promotion.

A: Can you believe that Dave and Andrea are still married! He's always bossing her around.

B: It beats me why she stays with him.

It beats me how Jen can afford a new sports car when she only works part-time.

## **Feifei**

So that is 'it beats me' – a phrase used for saying that you do not know or understand something. So there's no beating involved!

## **Rob**

Definitely not. So now I can safely say, it beats me what's going on in the office – I haven't got a clue.

## **Feifei**

Well the situation seemed very tense and the boss was shouting something about mice.

## **Rob**

Ah yes, well in that case, it could be that I left my lunch on my desk overnight and it's possible the mice have found it and eaten it? They do get everywhere.

## **Feifei**

Mice! In our office? I hate mice...

## **Rob**

Ouch... why are you beating me again? I think it's time to go. Bye.

## **Feifei**

Bye.