
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Down in the dumps



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This is not a word-for-word transcript

Neil

Hello, I'm Neil... but where is Feifei?

Feifei

... sorry I'm late! Is it time for The English We Speak?

Neil

It is Feifei – but catch your breath and have a seat. Are you ok? You look a bit of a... mess!

Feifei

Me? A mess! You would be a mess if you had been where I have been.

Neil

OK calm down... and what's that smell?

Feifei

So you think I smell now! I've been to the rubbish dump!

Neil

The rubbish dump?! Why did you go there?

Feifei

Because I was looking for Rob earlier and someone said he was down in the dumps.

Neil

Feifei, that is the last place you will find someone who is down in the dumps. It's just a saying that describes someone who is unhappy, fed up and sometimes feels there is no hope.

Feifei

Oh I get it! Being depressed or unhappy is a miserable feeling – a bit like being at a rubbish dump, actually.

Neil

Exactly. Let's hear some examples...

Examples

Don't be so down in the dumps, you're going on holiday tomorrow!

Oh it's Monday again, no wonder I feel so down in the dumps.

Reshma has been so down in the dumps since her boyfriend left her.

Feifei

So that's being 'down in the dumps' – feeling unhappy and miserable. So I've had a wasted trip – but I wonder why Rob is 'down in the dumps'?

Neil

It could be because his football team lost... again.

Feifei

No, he's used to that happening. It must be something more serious than that.

Neil

I know – he's feeling sad because he's not presenting this wonderful programme with you – it's such a great script isn't it!

Feifei

There's only one place for this script Neil – down in the dump!

Neil

Ha ha, very funny!

Both

Bye.