
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

To put someone on the map



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This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

Hello I'm Feifei and this is The English We Speak.

Neil

And hello I'm Neil.

Feifei

Neil, I wonder if you could help me. I'm trying to find something on this map.

Neil

Oh yes, map reading – I'm good at that. What are you trying to find?

Feifei

Well, I went to a gig last night and saw this new singer – he was amazing.

Neil

Thanks for inviting me! Anyway, what's that got to with a map?

Feifei

Well, afterwards everyone was talking about it and saying the gig was so good that it will 'put him on the map'. But... I just can't find him on here.

Neil

Put the map away Feifei – you won't find him there. When we say someone will be 'put on the map' it means they will become famous or become more prominent – but not on a map!

Feifei

Right! Actually Neil, I've heard about a new restaurant I ate at being 'put on the map'.

Neil

Yes, *something* as well as someone can be put on the map – or in other words, become famous, popular or well known. You must have eaten at a good quality restaurant for it to be put on the map!

Feifei

I did! Let's tuck into some examples shall we?

Examples

Her first exhibition at the Tate gallery has put her on the map as a serious modern artist. .

This great tasting food has really put this new restaurant on the map.

Hosting the Olympics has put this city on the map as a great place to come for a holiday.

Feifei

So that's to put someone or something on the map – to become famous, popular or more prominent. I suppose it suggests that becoming famous means you are now important enough for your name to be seen or heard by everyone.

Neil

That's right. In the old days when a place was too small and unimportant it wasn't shown on a map – but when it became more important it was 'put on the map'.

Feifei

Right. Anyway Neil, let me look at that map again...

Neil

OK.

Feifei

Look! That singer I saw really is on the map – right there.

Neil

Really? What was he called?

Feifei

'Man-chester'

Neil

Manchester. Of course!

Both

Bye.