

---

# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### A knees-up



BBC  
LEARNING  
ENGLISH

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

---

**Feifei**

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

**Rob**

... and hello, it's Rob here. Err, Feifei, I hope you don't mind me saying but you look a bit hot and sweaty.

**Feifei**

That's because I've been training for this 'thing' that Dan's having for his birthday.

**Rob**

A 'thing' – what sort of thing?

**Feifei**

Well according to his party invitation, he's having a knees-up to celebrate his birthday. I'm not sure what it is but I wanted to be prepared by getting fit. Look I can get my knee up to my chin!

**Rob**

That's impressive but completely unnecessary. A knees-up is an informal way of saying a lively party where there's usually dancing. So he's having a party!

**Feifei**

Oh right. So I've been invited to Dan's birthday party! Well, if there's dancing I still need to get fit.

**Rob**

That's true. Let's hear some more examples of people having a knees-up...

**Examples**

Sorry I'm a bit sleepy today, we had a big knees-up last night. It was great!

We're planning a knees-up for Dad's 70th birthday, I hope you can come.

Now our exams have finished, let's have a knees-up at my house tonight!

**Feifei**

So a knees-up is a lively party or gathering to celebrate something. This is going to be fun!

**Rob**

Yes, there'll be dancing...

**Feifei**

Good.

**Rob**

Eating and drinking...

**Feifei**

Perfect.

**Rob**

And lots of celebrating. But this knees-up will be missing one thing.

**Feifei**

Oh yes, what's that?

**Rob**

Me. I won't be coming – I haven't got time – I'm up to my knees in paperwork.

**Feifei**

'Up to your knees' in paperwork! You mean you've got too much work to do – come on Rob, be honest, you haven't been invited!

**Rob**

Well....yes. I can't dance anyway, I've got a bad knee.

**Feifei**

Excuses. I'll let you know how it goes. Bye!

**Rob**

Bye!