
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Just the ticket



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This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

Hello, I'm Feifei, and this is The English We Speak and today I'm with Rob. Hi Rob, how are you?

Rob

Hi Feifei... I'm fine but I can't quite understand why you've brought me to a railway station.

Feifei

Isn't that obvious?

Rob

No. And what's that piece of paper you're waving in your hand?

Feifei

Oh this? This is a ticket.

Rob

A ticket. Why would you bring me to a railway station and show me a ticket? It's cold and we could be in a warm studio presenting this programme. And anyway, don't you know it's my birthday and we're supposed to be going out to celebrate later?

Feifei

I know it's your birthday, you told me last week and you said something about wanting a present that was 'just the ticket'. So here it is.

Rob

Oh Feifei – I didn't want a ticket – when I said 'just the ticket' I meant I wanted something that was exactly what I wanted or needed: A camera, a computer game or maybe a nice bottle of whisky.

Feifei

Oh right, I see.

Rob

Oh dear, what a wasted trip Feifei. Now we're here, let's hear some more examples of the phrase 'just the ticket'....

Examples

Oh I feel terrible: I've got a cold and my nose is blocked but a drink of hot honey and lemon would be just the ticket to make me feel better.

I think a new art gallery will be just the ticket for improving the image of the town and encouraging more people to visit.

Our car has got seven seats, so it's just the ticket for taking all the kids to football practice every week.

Feifei

So that's 'just the ticket' – which describes something that exactly what is wanted or needed. OK Rob, so you wanted something for your birthday that was 'just the ticket' – well you're looking at it.

Rob

You Feifei?

Feifei

No Rob. This ticket is in my hand. Have you actually looked at it?

Rob

OK let me see... Wow! A train ticket to Paris, for me? That's really generous of you. Thanks Feifei! When do we go?

Feifei

We? No, it's just one ticket – I couldn't afford two. Now look, the train's about to leave so you had better go. Have a good trip!

Rob

Oh right. Well I had better go. See ya.

Feifei

Bye Rob. [ASIDE] Phew, two days in the office without Rob – that is 'just the ticket' for me!