
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Bone idle



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This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Feifei and... excuse me please... Rob, can we have your attention please!

Rob

Err, oh right... hello, I'm Rob.

Feifei

Rob, could you take your feet off the table please!

Rob

Oh, alright then. Feifei, do I have to present this programme today?

Feifei

Why, what's wrong?

Rob

Well, I've done so much work already and according to my watch, I should be having a coffee break now.

Feifei

Really! Rob's being lazy because he was out late last night. Rob, there is a phrase to describe your condition.

Rob

Oh yes. Overworked? Energetic?

Feifei

No – the opposite. It's bone idle – literally, you are idle right through to your bones. In other words, you are very lazy!

Rob

It's a great phrase Feifei but that doesn't describe me. Look I've just moved my little finger.

Feifei

Ha ha! I think we had better hear some more examples while you move the rest of your body.

Examples

The doctor has told my brother to do more exercise, but he won't do it, he's bone idle.

You're bone idle – you've been at home all day and you're still in your pyjamas!

My boyfriend's bone idle – he won't even get off the sofa to answer the phone.

Feifei

So the phrase 'bone idle' means very lazy – like Rob! Hey Rob, I hear it's Dan's birthday today and he's brought a cake in for us all to share.

Rob

Cake! I love cake – great, come on let's get some before it all eaten.

Feifei

Ah, you're moving now –but you're not going anywhere until you've finished this programme.

Rob

Come on then, tell me what to say.

Feifei

Just read this script.

Rob

OK let me see. Hold on, the script says you're about to say 'it's not Dan's birthday, it's a joke.'

Feifei

Sorry Rob, it is a joke – but it did stop you from being bone idle!

Rob

Right, that's it. I'm not going to do anymore work for the rest of the day.

Feifei

No change there. Rob, I've got a new name for you.

Rob

What's that?

Feifei

Lazy bones.

Rob

You're cruel.

Feifei

Bye.

Rob

Bye.