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**BBC LEARNING ENGLISH**  
**The English We Speak**  
**Let the dust settle**



**BBC**  
LEARNING  
ENGLISH

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

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**Feifei**

*Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Feifei but I'm not sure where Neil is.*

**Neil**

*Sorry I'm late. It's going a bit crazy out there in the office.*

**Feifei**

*Crazy?*

**Neil**

*Yes. Everybody is arguing and shouting.*

**Feifei**

*About what exactly?*

**Neil**

*The mess in the office. The boss says it's untidy and we should clear up after ourselves. He even said that my desk was like a pigsty!*

**Feifei**

*Hmmm, well you'd better stay in here and keep out of the way until things have calmed down.*

**Neil**

*Good idea – I'll just let the dust settle.*

**Feifei**

*Oh, so the office is messy and dusty – is that what everyone's arguing about – the dust?*

**Neil**

*No Feifei, I just mean I'll wait for the situation to calm down.*

**Feifei**

*Got it! So, you're just keeping out of the way – are you scared?*

**Neil**

*Of course not. I just wanted to hear these examples...*

**Examples**

*We've had lots of complaints about the changes but let's wait until the dust settles before we respond.*

*We're busy moving house at the moment but I'll give you a call when the dust settles.*

*Now the dust has settled after the restructuring, I think we can talk about recruitment.*

**Feifei**

*This is The English We Speak from the BBC and we're finding out about the phrase 'let the dust settle', which means to 'wait for a situation to calm down'.*

**Neil**

*We can also say 'wait for the dust to settle' - which is what I'm doing right now.*

**Feifei**

*Neil, I have a feeling you're just avoiding the situation for one reason.*

**Neil**

*Oh yeah, what's that?*

**Feifei**

*Look out there. They're all pointing at your desk. They're not arguing about a messy office. They're complaining about your mess.*

**Neil**

*Really. Well, I like to work in a messy environment.*

**Feifei**

*Maybe, but I don't think the dust is ever going to settle in this argument.*

**Neil**

*OK. But, I think I'll stay in here for just a little longer.*

**Both**

*Bye.*