
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Play a blinder



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This is not a word-for-word transcript

Rob

Welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Rob, and I'm live here with the hero of the day, Feifei.

Feifei

Thanks Rob. Hello everyone.

Rob

Now, let's talk about that fantastic performance. BBC Learning English FC were two goals down, and then you came along and scored three times in the last ten minutes. How do you feel?

Feifei

Well, it was really all down to the team. I was just the right person in the right place today.

Rob

A very modest answer, but the crowd are going wild about you. Just listen...
It's fair to say Feifei, you played a blinder!

Feifei

Just doing my job. Though, as a proud BBC Learning English FC player, there is one thing I would like to say to the audience.

Rob

Of course, go ahead.

Feifei

I'd like to explain that phrase you used - 'to play a blinder'. 'To play a blinder' is a phrase used to describe an amazing display of skill, usually in sports, but also in other areas in life.

Rob

Yes, not only did you play a blinder in the football game today, Feifei, you played a blinder with that definition! Listen to the crowd...

Feifei

I'd like to add a little more, Rob. Why do we use the word 'blinder'? Well, imagine you're watching a dazzling performance – something so good it seems to shine brightly. The idea is that it's so shiny, so dazzling, it could cause someone watching to go blind.

Rob

Like looking at the sun. Thankfully, it's just an expression. If you're watching or listening to this show, we're sure your eyesight won't be affected! Let's have some more examples.

Examples

Theresa played a blinder today in the final. What a simply amazing performance on the tennis court.

Did you see Mexico beating Germany in the World Cup? Mexican forward Hirving Lozano played an absolute blinder!

Darren, what an awesome presentation! You played a blinder. I'm pretty sure we've just won some new clients.

Rob

You are listening to the English We Speak from BBC Learning English. Please notice that in the last example, we weren't talking about sport. You can also play a blinder in a work or business context, or anything that involves skill and performance.

Feifei

Well, Rob, I think we've both played a blinder today.

Rob

Thank you, thank you. Which reminds me... Hang on a second... let's bring back the cheering crowd!

Feifei

I love it. Wouldn't it be great if we could have people cheering us just like that in real life?

Rob

And wouldn't it be fantastic if, in real life, you were actually good at football!

Feifei

Hey, come on! We both know I played a blinder – at least in the programme!

Rob

OK.

Both

Bye.