
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Dumbphone



BBC
LEARNING
ENGLISH

This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Feifei.

Neil

And I'm Neil. So how was your holiday, Feifei? Got any photos?

Feifei

Yeah! Aren't they cool?

Neil

Well, I haven't seen them.

Feifei

Haven't seen them? Well check out my social media feeds.

Neil

Erm... well, I'll have to wait till I get to my computer. I can't see anything on this dumbphone.

Feifei

Dumbphone?!

Neil

Yeah, I was getting addicted to my smartphone – I couldn't stop checking it every five seconds - so I got rid of it and now I have this dumbphone! It's brilliant – it does absolutely nothing apart from phone and text!

Feifei

Oh I see. The opposite of 'smart' is 'dumb', so the opposite of a smartphone is a 'dumbphone'.

Neil

You've got it! It's very fashionable, you know. Eddie Redmayne uses one!

Feifei

Hmm, not sure about that... But let's hear some examples.

Examples

Man 1

Argh my arm is killing me from playing around with my phone so much.

Woman 1

Get yourself a dumbphone, like me. There's nothing to check!

My sleep has improved so much since I got rid of my smartphone. There's no temptation to stare at this dumbphone in bed!

I'm sick of being bullied by my smartphone. I'm going to join the dumbphone revolution!

Feifei

This is The English we Speak from BBC Learning English. We're learning the word 'dumbphone'. A dumbphone is a simple, old-fashioned style mobile phone which can only make calls and send text messages. 'Dumb' is the opposite of 'smart'. Some people are choosing to use them because they think smartphones distract them too much.

Neil

It's a word that's only appeared over the last couple of years, so you probably won't find it in a dictionary – but it's been used a lot in the media. So Feifei, how am I going to see these holiday snaps of yours?

Feifei

Neil, just get a new smartphone.

Neil

No way. The past is the future!

Feifei

What next? Are you going to start coming to work on a horse?

Neil

Now that is a great idea! And maybe I could swap my computer for a typewriter. And who really needs electricity when you can have a nice gas lamp...

Feifei

Good bye!

Neil

Bye.