
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Pea-souper



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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.

Feifei

Errr, Neil why are you still here? I thought you were driving to Manchester and Rob was going to present the programme.

Neil

Feifei, have you looked outside the window?

Feifei

Errr, no. Should I?

Neil

It's a pea-souper out there!

Feifei

You want me to look out of the window at pea soup? Is there a big bowl of it or something?

Neil

No, there's no soup – it's an informal way of describing thick fog. It's so thick you can hardly see through it. And that's why I can't drive to Manchester.

Feifei

That is a shame. But why a pea-souper?

Neil

I guess because, like pea soup, it's thick and a dark cloudy colour.

Feifei

Hmm, well I'd rather eat pea soup than be in it! I think we had better hear some examples of this strange phrase...

Examples

It looks like our flight is delayed until this pea-souper clears.

It's a real pea-souper today. When I was driving here I couldn't even see the car in front of me.

There's no way I'm cycling in this pea-souper. It's far too dangerous.

Feifei

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English. And I'm with Neil, who can't travel because of a pea-souper – that's a very thick fog that's hard to see through.

Neil

Sometimes you can refer to it as 'smog', if it's fog mixed with air pollution.

Feifei

Yes, that's horrible stuff to be in. Well Neil, if you can't go to Manchester, what are we going to do?

Neil

Well, let's have lunch together.

Feifei

Yes, and what are we going to eat?

Neil

Pea soup of course! It's that kind of day.

Feifei

Oh look, the fog is clearing. Maybe you can drive after all!

Neil

Hmm, I'll get my coat. Bye.

Feifei

See you.