
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Leaves a bad taste in your mouth



This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

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

Neil

And I'm hungry – I mean Neil. Feifei, why did you book this studio recording session at midday? I'm starving! Do you fancy going for lunch? I've heard that new chicken restaurant just down the road is excellent!

Feifei

Not sure about that.

Neil

Oh, have you been there before?

Feifei

Yes, and it **left a bad taste in my mouth**.

Neil

Oh really? So the food's bad? Everyone says it's great!

Feifei

Well, the food was great...

Neil

Eh? The food was great but it **left a bad taste in your mouth**? I don't understand!

Feifei

Let me explain. If something **leaves a bad taste in your mouth**, it means you've 'had a bad experience and the memory is unpleasant'.

Neil

Oh I see. So, what went wrong?

Feifei

The bill was twice as much as it should have been!

Neil

Ah, I get it now! We use the expression it **leaves a bad taste in your mouth** when we have a negative experience and feel bad or angry about it afterwards – like being ripped off in a restaurant!

Feifei

Come on, Neil. Let's hear some examples. Then we can go for lunch somewhere that doesn't rip me off!

Examples

I refuse to go back to that hotel. They were so rude! It **left a bad taste in my mouth**.

When my boss sent me that angry email last thing on Friday, it **left a bad taste in my mouth**.

It **left a bad taste in my mouth** when I got fined for going just one mile an hour over the speed limit!

Feifei

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English. And I'm with Neil, who was wondering why I've got a bad taste in my mouth when it's got nothing to do with food.

Neil

We use the expression it 'leaves a bad taste in your mouth' when we have a negative experience and feel bad or angry about it afterwards. So, is it time for lunch?

Feifei

Yes, Neil! I really want you to come and try that new tofu place. The food is just delicious and the service is excellent!

Neil

So, will it leave a good taste in my mouth?

Feifei

It sure will! Bye.

Neil

Bye.