
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

To be all downhill



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This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

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

Rob

And hello I'm Rob.

Feifei

You're looking pleased with yourself, Rob.

Rob

I am! I've finished all of my work.

Feifei

Really. All of it?

Rob

Yes. Scripts written, programmes recorded and edited, meetings cancelled – I think I deserve a cup of coffee... or maybe something stronger!

Feifei

But it's only Wednesday and you've done all of your work! So what does that mean?

Rob

It means it's all downhill to the weekend.

Feifei

All downhill? Oh I get it! When you are going downhill, on a bike for example, it's easy. So when things are about to get easier, after a difficult or challenging time, we can describe the situation as being 'all downhill'.

Rob

Spot on, Feifei. Once we've heard some examples, it's going to be all downhill until pub time!

Examples

Yeah! Our building plans have been approved. It's all downhill from here on.

Once I've completed this final assignment, it'll be all downhill until I get my qualification.

Feifei

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English. And I'm with Rob, who's done all of his work and says it's going to be all downhill until the weekend – that is, things are going to be easy. But, Rob, I have a question.

Rob

Oh yes?

Feifei

The phrase 'to be all downhill' isn't always used in a positive situation. Sometimes it is used to describe situations that get worse. Such as...

Example

The film's opening scene was amazing, but it was all downhill after that - there was no story and the acting was appalling!

Rob

Feifei are you absolutely sure about this?

Feifei

Yes, it's true – and your week is definitely going to be all downhill.

Rob

In a bad way, I suppose?

Feifei

Yep. Neil's just gone off sick and you've got to do all his work now.

Rob

Crikey! This script for this programme has suddenly gone downhill.

Feifei

You had better save that drink for later. See ya.

Rob

Bye.