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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### The joke is on you



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*This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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**Feifei**

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Feifei and joining me is Rob...

**Rob**

Hello! Hey, Feifei. Have you heard the news?

**Feifei**

Gossip, you mean.

**Rob**

No, no - it's true! We've been given the day off! So, sorry, I'm not going to hang around - I'm off to the beach.

**Feifei**

Hold on! Who says?

**Rob**

Neil. He said the boss told him that we've all worked so hard we don't have to work today!

**Feifei**

Hmm. It sounds like a wind up to me – a wind-up is another way of saying 'a trick or joke'. I'm sure Neil was joking!

**Rob**

April Fool, Feifei! I was joking! I wanted to trick you – to see if you'd leave the office and... take the day off.

**Feifei**

Ha ha, very funny. Well, actually, I *have* got the day off today. So the joke is on you, and it starts now. Goodbye.

**Rob**

Feifei, where are you going? Come back and explain what 'the joke is on you' means... please!

**Feifei**

...OK, Rob! When 'the joke is on someone', it means the person who has tried to make you look silly has ended up looking silly themselves. The joke has backfired. And now you look silly, Rob.

**Rob**

Point made, Feifei. Here are some more examples of this phrase in action...

**Examples**

Daisy laughed at my 'terrible' dress sense, until she found out I was wearing a designer dress – I guess the joke's on her now!

Ha, you thought I'd never beat your time for completing the marathon. But I have, so the joke's on you!

I know you were trying to be funny by saying I'd never pass my exam. But now you're the only one who hasn't, so the joke's on you, I'm afraid!

**Feifei**

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English and we're looking at the phrase 'the joke is on someone,' which means someone has tried to make someone else look silly but ended up looking silly themselves! So this perfectly describes you, Rob – the joke about taking a day off is 'on you'.

**Rob**

I was just having a laugh - April Fool's Day. But, hold on. Where is everybody? The office is empty.

**Feifei**

Ha – not another one of your 'jokes'?

**Rob**

No, seriously – look, there's an email. It says 'Due to a power failure the office is out of action. You can all take the day off.' Ha, looks like we've all got a day off after all – the jokes on you, Feifei!

**Feifei**

Ah well, enjoy your free time.

**Rob**

Fancy going to the beach?

**Feifei**

No, thanks. Bye, Rob.

**Rob**

I was joking. Bye.