

Feifei

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

Rob

And hello, I'm Rob.

Feifei

Something funny, Rob?

Rob

Not really... Well, yes actually. I've had some luck.

Feifei

Tell me more.

Rob

Well, I bought loads of shares in that new chain of burger restaurants and guess what?

Feifei

You've got a free burger?

Rob

No, Feifei – the price of the shares has risen and I've doubled my money. I'm laughing all the way to the bank! For the first time in my life I'm rich!

Feifei

Calm down, Rob! I think you'd get some strange looks if you went to the bank laughing – the bank has all your money - there's nothing to laugh about.

Rob

Seriously, Feifei! If I 'laugh all the way to the bank', it just means I have made lots of money very easily.

Feifei

Of course!

Rob

Let's hear some more examples.

Examples

The florist laughed all the way to the bank when she signed a deal to supply all the hotels in the chain with flowers.

Since we bought it, the price of our house has greatly increased. So when we come to sell it, we'll be laughing all the way to the bank.

Now the two companies have merged, shareholders will be laughing all the way to the bank!

Feifei

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English and we're looking at the funny phrase 'laughing all the way to the bank', which means 'to make lots of money very easily'. But, Rob, buying shares is no laughing matter.

Rob

Why's that?

Feifei

Shares can go down in value as well as up – and I've just read that because someone got food poisoning at one of those burger restaurants, the share price has gone down.

Rob

Oh, so my get-rich-quick plan hasn't worked.

Feifei

Can you cry all the way to the bank as well?

Rob

Cry all the way to the bank? Yes, I think you can – and I'm going to do that right now. I need to borrow some money. Bye.

Feifei

I can lend you a fiver! Bye.