

---

# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### To vanish into thin air



BBC  
LEARNING  
ENGLISH

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

---

**Feifei**

This is The English We Speak. I'm Feifei.

**Rob**

And hello, I'm Rob.

**Feifei**

Rob, would you mind wiping those crumbs from your mouth?

**Rob**

Ooops, sorry!

**Feifei**

Do you know, it's very strange - I made a cake a last night and brought it to work today to share with you.

**Rob**

That's very kind!

**Feifei**

Yes, but it seems to have vanished into thin air.

**Rob**

Wow! You're a magician! You've made a cake disappear!

**Feifei**

No, Rob. The phrase 'to vanish into thin air' means 'to suddenly, mysteriously and completely disappear'. You haven't seen the cake, have you, Rob?

**Rob**

No, Feifei – no sign of your 'disappearing' cake.

**Feifei**

OK, well let's hear some examples of this phrase. Let's hope they haven't suddenly disappeared!

**Examples**

I can't remember where I've parked the car! I think it's **vanished into thin air**.

Have you seen the boss? Someone important needs to talk to him but I can't find him anywhere. It's like he's **vanished into thin air**.

Has anyone seen my glasses? They've **vanished into thin air**.

**Feifei**

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English and we're learning about the expression '**to vanish into thin air**', which can be used to describe a situation where something mysteriously and suddenly disappears. So any sign of my cake?

**Rob**

No.

**Feifei**

Very odd. I put it on my desk this morning and went to make a cup of coffee and when I returned, it had gone.

**Dan**

Great cake, Rob! Thanks for sharing it! I hope you'll be baking again soon! See you!

**Feifei**

Rob!

**Rob**

Sorry, Feifei! It was so tempting, so delicious, so I thought...

**Feifei**

So you thought you'd eat it!

**Rob**

It helped us demonstrate today's phrase.

**Feifei**

There's just one thing I want to **vanish into thin air**.

**Rob**

Oh yeah? And what's that?

**Feifei**

You, Rob! Now I'm off to bake a cake - for me.

**Rob**

See you! Oh, she's gone!