
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Cherry-pick



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This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

Hello, this The English We Speak. I'm Feifei...

Rob

...and hello, I'm Rob.

Feifei

Why have you brought a bowl of fruit into the studio?

Rob

I'm not feeling great – and you know fruit is packed with vitamin C, so I thought eating some would do me good.

Feifei

Hmm I see. Well, I'm sorry you're not feeling great, but we have got a programme to do and an English phrase to teach.

Rob

If you don't mind, I might just read a few lines from the script today – to save my voice. Perhaps I could just read the funny lines?

Feifei

No Rob! You can't just cherry-pick what you want to say.

Rob

Cherry-pick? No Feifei, there aren't any cherries in my fruit bowl- so I won't be picking any.

Feifei

I wasn't referring to your fruit. When you cherry-pick something, it means you choose only what's best or most desirable out of a group of things or a group of people. But Rob, you're not going to do that, are you?

Rob

Errr... shall we hear some examples of other cherry pickers?

Examples

Josh says he cherry-picked the players for his football team based on their skills – but I know it's because they were his friends!

We need to cherry-pick the best food for our new restaurant – we really want to impress our customers.

It seems unfair that our school has cherry-picked the best students to attend the conference – we should all have a chance to go.

Feifei

You're listening to The English We Speak from BBC Learning English and we're talking about the phrase 'to cherry-pick', which means to choose the best or most desirable things from a group. And Rob wants to cherry-pick only the best lines to read from this script. It's a bit unfair, Rob...

Rob

I was just trying to save my voice but I will do my best. Would you like a piece of fruit from the bowl, Feifei?

Feifei

Oh, OK then. Err, that banana is a bit mouldy... that orange is a bit yellow...I'll have this apple please.

Rob

Hmm, looks like you're cherry-picking the best piece of fruit. Right, well, now that you've got my delicious apple, do you mind if I go now – I'm really not feeling great.

Feifei

Oh go on, Rob. But next time I'm going to cherry-pick who I present with – someone who wants a bite of the cherry to work with me. A bite of the cherry means a chance or opportunity. I need someone with a bit more... stamina. See ya.

Rob

Bye.