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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### To milk it



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

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**Feifei**

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

**Rob**

...and don't you know who I am?! I am Rob.

**Feifei**

Yes, we all know that, Rob.

**Rob**

But I am THE Rob – Rob of The English We Speak. There is nobody else like me.

**Feifei**

Yeah, yeah, yeah - don't milk it!

**Rob**

Eh? Come on, show me some respect. Ouch, I seem to have pulled a muscle – ooo, that hurts.

**Feifei**

Come on, Rob. You hardly moved.

**Rob**

Ouch, it's in my lower back. It's so painful, I don't know if I can carry on.

**Feifei**

You are milking it again!

**Rob**

Feifei – what am I 'milking' exactly?

**Feifei**

Everything! 'To milk it' means to take full advantage of a situation usually to gain sympathy, respect or kindness. Sometimes, like Rob, you fake something to get attention – that's when we say 'You're milking it'.

**Rob**

Are you talking about me?

**Feifei**

Of course I am, Rob. Let's hear some examples of other people 'milking it'...

**Examples**

OK, don't milk it, Sam! You've told me a hundred times you've got tickets for the World Cup final.

Tom's had a week off work with a cold – I think he's milking it now.

Since her promotion, Freya keeps bossing us around and telling us to call her 'Miss Brown' – she's really milking it!

**Feifei**

You're listening to The English We Speak from BBC Learning English, and we're talking about the phrase 'to milk it'. This means to take full advantage of a situation usually to gain sympathy, respect or kindness. So Rob, have you got what 'milking it' means?

**Rob**

I do, and I seemed to have recovered from pulled muscle but I've become so... thirsty, I was wondering...

**Feifei**

...if I could get you a drink of milk?

**Rob**

No, Feifei. I was thinking of a cup of coffee. You are so very kind and generous.

**Feifei**

You are milking it again, Rob. Actually, I've got just the thing for you. Hold on... Meet Daisy!

**Daisy**

Moo... moo...

**Rob**

A cow!!! How do I milk that?

**Feifei**

I'd start down there somewhere. Good luck.

**Rob**

Bye.