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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### Brain fade



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

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**Feifei**

Hi! Err, Neil.

**Neil**

Yes?

**Feifei**

What are you doing?

**Neil**

Oh, I'm just standing here, I'm... Actually, I can't remember why I came in here.

**Feifei**

You seem miles away! We're in the studio, and we're about to record an episode of The English We Speak.

**Neil**

Of course we are, sorry. I had a brain fade there.

**Feifei**

Anyway – let's get on with the programme. And the phrase we're going to teach is... 'brain fade'! Imagine that.

**Neil**

Haha, well – let's explain it. 'Brain fade' is a slang term meaning a short period when you can't think clearly or remember things.

**Feifei**

For example: when you walk into a room and forget why you went there.

**Neil**

That's a brain fade. Never happens to me!

**Feifei**

And how about this: when you can't remember where you put your keys?

**Neil**

Ah yes, I do know that one. Now you mention it, where are they?

**Feifei**

Haha. We often use it with 'have': to have a brain fade. Let's hear a few more examples of this phrase in context.

**Examples**

I saw an old colleague on the street last week. Completely forgot her name! A serious case of brain fade. Really embarrassing.

I'm sure I did terribly in the exam. I had a major brain fade.

I hate doing job interviews. It's not that the questions are difficult, I just get brain fade as soon as I walk into the room. Can't even remember my own name!

**Feifei**

You're listening to The English We Speak from BBC Learning English. The expression we're looking at in this programme is 'brain fade'. Neil. Neil?

**Neil**

Good. Err. Give me a second.

**Feifei**

What now?

**Neil**

I took my glasses off while we were listening to those examples. And you know... I can't see them anywhere.

**Feifei**

Neil.

**Neil**

Yes?

**Feifei**

They're on your head.

**Neil**

That's a relief. Another brain fade, I'm afraid. I think I just need a good night's sleep.

**Feifei**

You do that! That's our phrase, brain fade. Let's hope we made it easy to remember!

**Both**  
Bye.