
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Live for something



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This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak with me, Feifei...

Roy

...and me, Roy.

Feifei

We may sound a little different – that’s because we are not able to record in our normal studios during the coronavirus outbreak. In this programme we have an expression that means ‘you enjoy something more than anything else you do. Roy, you love video games, don’t you?

Roy Yes, I love them! I play them all the time!

Feifei

I know! You live for video games!

Roy

No, I’m an English teacher. Teaching English is my job. I don’t play video games for a living!

Feifei

Roy, I said live for video games, which means you enjoy them more than anything else. Some people live for art, or they live for sports.

Roy

Ahhh got you. I understand – and what do you live for Feifei?

Feifei

I live for music. That’s why I always listen to my MP3 player when you’re speaking! Now, let’s have a look at these examples.

Examples

Martin loves art so much. He lives for painting. Have you seen his new collection?

Cassandra adores doing sports. She lives for football.

Denzel loves playing and looking after his kids. He lives for his children. He's an amazing stay-at-home dad.

Feifei

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English and we're talking about the expression 'to live for something' which means you really enjoy something. A lot of people also use it to say how excited they are for a specific event.

Roy

Yes, for example you might say 'I'm living for the weekend', or 'I'm living for a party'.

Feifei

Oh, did Neil invite you to his party? I'm living for it!

Roy

I thought we couldn't have parties!? We all have to stay at home at the moment.

Feifei

Don't be silly Roy. It's a virtual party. All the cool people are doing it. Maybe that's why you didn't get invited. I'll let you come to the virtual party as long as you don't do anything silly like last time!

Roy

That wasn't my fault! I misunderstood the invite. I thought it was a fancy-dress party.

Feifei

It was Piotr's wedding! You came dressed like Frankenstein's monster!

Roy

Oh well, at least I looked cool. Some people said I was more interesting to look at than the bride!

Feifei

You looked ridiculous – no wonder people couldn't stop staring at you!

Roy

Well, I am living for our chat on Friday at the virtual party, Feifei!

Feifei

Well, I might not hear you speaking, because I'll be listening to my MP3 player!
Bye, Roy.

Roy

Bye.