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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### A botch job

The logo for BBC Learning English, featuring the letters 'BBC' in a white box above the words 'LEARNING ENGLISH' in white text on a teal background.

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

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#### **Jiaying**

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Jiaying but there's no Neil. I'm waiting for him to arrive...

[DOOR OPENS]

#### **Neil**

Sorry I'm late. I've had a bit of a disaster.

#### **Jiaying**

Oh no.

#### **Neil**

Yes, I've been doing some DIY...

#### **Jiaying**

DIY – that means 'do-it-yourself' – you've been doing your own building and repair work. That sounds dangerous!

#### **Neil**

Not really. All I was doing was putting up some bookshelves. But I put one of the nails through a water pipe – and water started spraying everywhere.

#### **Jiaying**

Disaster!!! It sounds like a botch job.

#### **Neil**

Oh, is that bad?

#### **Jiaying**

Very bad! A botch job is a job or task that is done badly or without much care. You can also 'make a botch of something'. It looks like you'll need to call in a plumber, but let's hear some examples first...

#### **Examples**

Oh no! You've made a botch job of the decorating. We'll have to start again.

My girlfriend made a botch job of the cake – she used the wrong ingredients and then baked it too long. I guess it's the thought that counts!

Our builder came highly recommended, but when the ceiling fell in, I knew he'd done a botch job.

**Jiaying**

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English. We're learning about the phrase 'a botch job' which describes a task that's done badly or carelessly. It's what Neil has done putting up some bookshelves. So, Neil, did you call a plumber?

**Neil**

No, far too expensive. I just put some sticky tape over the hole.

**Jiaying**

Oh no, you've *botched* it again. Why did you try to do this DIY job in the first place?

**Neil**

To save money, of course.

**Jiaying**

Oh dear, I think your botch job will become an expensive job. Anyway, here's a book to put on your new bookshelf.

**Neil**

Oh, thanks! What is it?

**Jiaying**

'Your Guide to Better DIY'.

**Neil**

Quick, where is the section on plumbing?

**Jiaying**

Ha, ha. Bye, Neil.

**Neil** Bye.