
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

English Expressions

Treading on eggshells



This is not a word-for-word transcript

नमस्कार मित्रांनो... English Expressions मध्ये तुमचं स्वागत आहे. हा शो आपल्याला, इंग्रजीतले नवनवीन वाक्प्रचार शिकण्यास मदत करेल.

मी तेजाली आणि आजचा आपला वाक्प्रचार आहे 'treading on eggshells' किंवा walking on eggshells... याचा शब्दशः अर्थ आहे, अड्यांच्या टरफलांवर चालणे... पण खरा अर्थ काय? काय वाटतं तुम्हाला? चला समजून घेऊ ...

ली दुकानात किराणा आणायला गेली. ती म्हणाली, दुकानात जाणं जरा 'tricky' होतं, कसरतच झाली दुकानात. नेमकी काय कसरत झाली तिची ? काय झालं तिकडे ? चला ऐकू या...

Rob

Hi Li. It looks like you've been busy.

Li

I've just picked up some groceries from the local shop, you know - milk, eggs, bread, flour – I'm going to make a cake.

Rob

Oh good. So how was Mr Brown, the shopkeeper? Hasn't he just split up with his wife?

Li

He has. It was tricky in the shop. I didn't want to say anything to him just in case I mentioned his wife. I only said: "Good morning" and he just said: "Is it?"

दुकानदाराचा नुकताच घटस्फोट झाला होता. त्यामुळे लीला त्याच्या बायकोचा उल्लेख टाळायचा होता. लीने दुकानदाराला सुप्रभात म्हटले, त्यावर तो कुत्सितपणे म्हणाला, **is it?** खरंच सुप्रभात होती का ती त्याच्यासाठी? अशा वेळी आपल्याला खूपच काळजीपूर्वक वागावं लागतं. तारेवरची कसरतच म्हणा ना ! बिचारी ली... पुढे काय झालं... चला ऐकू या.

Rob

Hmm, it sounds like you've been treading on eggshells.

Li

Oh no, the shop was very clean, nothing on the floor – I don't really think he's the sort of person to throw food around!

Rob

No Li – I mean you were trying very hard not to upset him – that's what treading on eggshells means.

Li

Oh! So it's about being nice - it's about being sensitive to the situation?

Rob

Yes.

Li

Well, I was very sensitive. But what have eggshells got to do with it?

Rob

Well, if there were eggshells on the floor literally you would have to be very careful where you put your feet!

रॉब म्हणाला, Li was treading on eggshells म्हणजे तीला दुकानदाराशी खूपच काळजीपूर्वक बोलावं लागलं, कारण त्याचा नुकताच घटस्फोट झाला होता. म्हणजेच एक प्रकारे तीला अड्याच्या टरफलांवरून चालावं लागलं.

म्हणजेच treading on eggshells चा अर्थ होतो समोरचा आपल्या वागण्याने नाराज होणार नाही, त्याला वाईट वाटणार नाही, याची काळजी घेणे. जर तुमच्या मित्राचा नुकताच प्रेमभंग झाला असेल तर, आपण त्याबद्दल बोलून परत त्याला दुखावणार का?

बरं, आता काही उदाहरणं ऐकू या.

Examples:

I had to be so careful with what I said to my ex-girlfriend. The smallest thing made her angry: it was like treading on eggshells.

Ever since my argument with my neighbour about parking, I feel like I've been treading on eggshells.

Since my friend's father died, I don't know what to say to him: it's like treading on eggshells.

Li

So, treading on eggshells can be awkward because you don't know what to say and you don't want to offend someone. So Rob, what should I have said to Mr Brown?

Rob

You could have said 'plenty more fish in the sea!'

Li

What?!

Rob

Or ... 'I didn't like her much anyway'?

Li

Rob, I think that's the opposite of treading on eggshells.

Rob

Really? Anyway let me help you with your shopping... oops (Rob drops the eggs!).

Li

Rob! You've dropped the eggs all over my kitchen floor.

Rob

Now you really will be walking on eggshells!

Li

That's not funny.

Rob

I didn't like your cakes much anyway.

अरे देवा... रॉबने अंडी खाली पाडली... आता त्यांना खरंच अंड्यांच्या टरफलांवर चालावं लागेल. पण लक्षात ठेवा, treading on eggshells म्हणजे, संवेदनशील परिस्थिती लक्षात घेउन, आपल्या बोलण्यामुळे कोणी दुखावलं जाणार नाही याची काळजी घेणे. तुमच्याबाबतीत असं घडलंय का कधी? आठवा बरं!!

मी तुम्हाला भेटिन English Expressions पुढच्या भागात... आणखी काही नवीन शब्दप्रयोग घेउन... bye!