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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The White Elephant

### 1: Panic



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ENGLISH

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

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#### Language focus: expressions connected to panic

**Ceilia/Gordon/Mary**

5... 4... 3... 2... 1...

**Gordon**

That's it! It is exactly one week since The White Elephant opened and still not one...

**Peter**

...customer!

**Ceilia**

What? A customer! Are you sure?

**Peter**

Yes. He's in there sitting down.

**Gordon**

Well, what does he want?

**Peter**

I don't know. I didn't ask him.

**Mary**

**Chill out!** I think it would be a really good idea to go and ask him.

**Peter**

Right. OK. Wait there.

**Peter**

Right, he says he wants the duck eggs and polenta fries but with a small change...

**Gordon**

Yes?

**Peter**

He wants a hen's egg instead of a duck's and... potato fries instead of polenta fries.

**Gordon**

What?! So he wants egg 'n' chips. I have not worked in some of the world's top restaurants to end up cooking egg and chips!.

**Ceilia**

Gordon, Gordon **keep your hair on!** Customer's is always right – and thank goodness we've got one. So, let's try to keep him happy and - who knows - he might bring his friends next time.

**Gordon**

Keep them happy?! It's alright for them to be happy, what about me? Egg and chips... I ask you...

**Ceilia**

**Don't get your knickers in a twist** Gordon.

**Mary**

Look, why don't I go and speak to him and see if wouldn't rather have Gordon's duck egg and polenta fries.

**Ceilia**

Thank you Mary.

**Gordon**

Well?

**Mary**

He's gone.

**Vocabulary**

**chill out!**

relax; don't panic

**keep your hair on**

stop being angry or upset

**don't get your knickers in a twist**

don't get angry or upset

## Questions

1. How many customers had visited The White Elephant before the one in this episode?  
(Hint: Check the first few lines of the transcript.)
  - a) 1.
  - b) 0.
  - c) 5.
  
2. Why doesn't Gordon want to cook egg and chips?  
(Hint: Gordon seems a very proud man.)
  - a) Because he thinks egg and chips is too basic a meal to prepare for a chef with his experience.
  - b) He doesn't have a hen's egg in the kitchen.
  - c) He doesn't know how to cook a hen's egg.
  
3. Mary tells Peter to 'chill out'. Why?  
(Hint: It's not connected to the temperature?)
  - a) He's too hot.
  - b) She wants him to leave.
  - c) She wants him to stop panicking.

## Answers

1. How many customers had visited The White Elephant before the one in this episode?
  - a) 1. Sorry that's not right. Gordon says, "That's it! Exactly one week since The White Elephant opened and still not one..."
  - b) 0. That's right.**
  - c) 5. That's the wrong answer. He doesn't say that he hasn't got a hen's egg.
  
2. Why doesn't Gordon want to cook egg and chips?
  - a) Because he thinks egg and chips is too basic a meal to prepare for a chef with his experience. Well done! That's the right answer.**
  - b) He doesn't have a hen's egg in the kitchen. That's the wrong answer. He doesn't say that he hasn't got a hen's egg.
  - c) He doesn't know how to cook a hen's egg. That's the wrong answer. Gordon is very confident about his cooking ability.
  
3. Mary tells Peter to 'chill out'. Why?
  - a) He's too hot. That's not right. 'Chill out' means 'relax'.
  - b) She wants him to leave. Sorry, that's the wrong answer. 'Chill out' is not the same as 'get out.'
  - c) She wants him to stop panicking. Well done! That's the right answer. 'Chill out' is an informal way of telling someone to calm down.**