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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The White Elephant

### 10: Angry



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ENGLISH

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

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**Gordon**

That's it... **I've had it up to here.**

**Ceilia**

Gordon, you seem angrier than normal?

**Gordon**

How can I work in these conditions? With stuff everywhere and the noise – **it is driving me up the wall!** Why can't I work in a *professional* kitchen like I used to?

**Ceilia**

Because you got the sack.

**Gordon**

We had creative differences that's all.

**Ceilia**

OK, OK... but **don't blow a fuse.**

**Gordon**

Anyway I'm **fed up to the back teeth** with it, I've had enough.

**Peter**

Oh, he's **like a bear with a sore head!**

**Mary**

Yes he does seem to be **at the end of his tether.** Ceilia, have you got anybody else who can do the cooking tonight?

**Ceilia**

No! The stand-by chef has got shingles. We can't be open today without a chef.

**Peter**

I could have a go – I cooked a pizza once – although it was a frozen one from the supermarket.

**Mary**

It's OK Peter, I'll go and talk to him.

**Gordon**

I'm sorry for **losing it**. I just wanted to let you know how I felt.

**Ceilia**

We understand... OK are you ready to start preparing food?

**Gordon**

Yes, of course. I'm going to make one of my special beef Wellingtons.

**Ceilia**

What did you say to him?

**Mary**

I just told him that a very important food critic had booked a table here tonight and might be writing about his food.

**Ceilia**

But we don't have any reservations tonight do we?

**Mary**

He doesn't need to know that!

## Vocabulary

### **I've had it up to here**

I have suffered enough because of something or someone

### **it's driving me up the wall**

it's making me very angry

### **don't blow a fuse!**

don't lose your temper

### **fed up to the back teeth**

angry because a situation has continued for too long

### **like a bear with a sore head!**

in a very bad mood

### **at the end of his tether**

so annoyed he can't carry on

### **losing it**

becoming very angry or upset

## Questions

1. What does Gordon say he's 'had it up to here'?

(Hint: Look at the video again.)

- a) It's too hot in the kitchen.
- b) The kitchen is dirty.
- c) Because there's stuff lying around and it's noisy.

2. What does Mary tell Gordon to calm him down?

(Hint: She tells a little lie!)

- a) There's a food critic coming to eat in the restaurant tonight.
- b) The stand-by chef is sick and they really need Gordon to cook.
- c) A food critic has written a great review about his food so he needs to carry on cooking.

3. What phrase did Gordon use to apologise for getting angry?

(Hint: Look at the vocabulary reference.)

- a) Sorry for being lost.
- b) Sorry for losing it.
- c) Sorry for losing me.

## Answers

1. What does Gordon say he's 'had it up to here'?

- a) It's too hot in the kitchen. That's not the reason why he's angry. Try again.
- b) The kitchen is dirty. Wrong. There's another reason.
- c) Because there's stuff lying around and it's noisy. Correct, well done!

2. What does Mary tell Gordon to calm him down?

- a) There's a food critic coming to eat in the restaurant tonight. That's right! She said the critic might be writing about Gordon's food.
- b) The stand-by chef is sick and they really need Gordon to cook. Wrong. The stand-by chef is sick but Mary tells him something else to get him cooking again.
- c) A food critic has written a great review about his food so he needs to carry on cooking. That's not quite right. There hasn't been a food critic in the restaurant yet.

3. What phrase did Gordon use to apologise for getting angry?

- a) Sorry for being lost. Wrong. Try again.
- b) Sorry for losing it. That's right. Well done.
- c) Sorry for losing me. Not quite the right phrase. Try again.