
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The White Elephant

15: Sad



This is not a word-for-word transcript

Gordon

Oh... you've got **a face like a wet weekend**. Keep it down will you, I'm trying to cook here.

Ceilia, it's Peter – he's **feeling blue**, sort him out will you?

Ceilia

Oh Peter, you seem **down in the dumps**.

Peter

Yes, it's Edith... She's dead.

Gordon

Who's Edith?

Ceilia

I'm not sure... but I think it's his mother.

Gordon

Sorry old chap. That's terrible news. I understand why you're so **downhearted**. Were you close to Edith?

Peter

Yes. I'd talk to her every day and watch her go round and round. She was a great swimmer.

Gordon

Oh. Don't **cry your eyes out**. **Worse things happen at sea**. Shall I get you a glass of wine?

Ceilia

This must be a very upsetting time for you. Would you like some time off?

Mary

What's going on? Is Peter ok?

Gordon

It's Peter - his mother's died. He's **beside himself with grief**. I've given him a glass of wine.

Peter

Edith! Edith!

Mary

Edith? Did he just say Edith?

Ceilia

Yes.

Mary

Edith is the name of his pet goldfish. Peter, has your goldfish died?

Peter

Yes.

Gordon

Great! You've got a dead fish, I could use it in my fish pie.

Mary

Gordon!

Vocabulary

a face like a wet weekend

a miserable and sad appearance

feeling blue

feeling sad

down in the dumps

feeling miserable or unhappy

downhearted

sad and having no hope

cry your eyes out

cry a lot

worse things happen at sea

don't worry too much about your own problems

beside himself with grief

very upset because someone has died

Questions

1. Who does Ceilia think Edith is?
(Hint: It's someone close to Peter.)
 - a) His mother
 - b) His goldfish
 - c) His dog
2. How does Ceilia describe how Peter is feeling?
(Hint: He's feeling 'low'.)
 - a) Looking like you're at the dump
 - b) Looking like you're up and down
 - c) Looking like you're down in the dumps
3. How does Gordon tell Peter that his problems aren't that bad?
(Hint: The ocean is a dangerous place...)
 - a) Don't cry your eyes out
 - b) You have a face like a wet weekend
 - c) Worse things happen at sea

Answers

1. Who does Ceilia think Edith is?

a) His mother

(Correct)

b) His goldfish

(Wrong. Ceilia doesn't know Peter has a goldfish at this point.)

c) His dog

(Wrong. He doesn't have a dog!)

2. How does Ceilia describe how Peter is feeling?

a) Looking like you're at the dump

(That's not right! If you are 'at the dump' you are physically at a waste disposal area!)

b) Looking like you're up and down

(That's not correct. This means your mood keeps changing.)

c) Looking like your down in the dumps

(Correct. That's the right expression!)

3. How does Gordon tell Peter that his problems aren't that bad?

a) Don't cry your eyes out

(Wrong. This phrase means 'stop crying so much'. Try again.)

b) You have a face like a wet weekend

(That's not correct. This expression describes someone who looks sad.)

c) Worse things happen at sea

(Yes! That's the right expression.)