
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The White Elephant

22: Disaster



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ENGLISH

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

Peter

This is all very exciting. Everybody wants the sushi...

Gordon

That's because tonight is our special 'Sushi Night', idiot - a chance for me to cook something really special for people with appreciation of real exotic food.

Mary

It's raw fish isn't it Gordon? No cooking required.

Peter

Sounds like **a recipe for disaster**. Well, at least you can't burn it.

Gordon

You wouldn't understand. The only fish you eat is deep fried with chips. Now out of the way.

Peter

Oh dear! Let's just put them on the plate shall we... no one will notice.

Mary

I'll help you.

Gordon

It's ruined now. Why don't you go and do some waiting while I work out what to do next?

Ceilia

How's our 'Sushi Night' coming on - got everything under control Gordon?

Gordon

No - we're **up the creek without a paddle!** Peter has just made me drop my sushi and I've got no more sushi rice - I can't make any more.

Ceilia

Oh dear, is our Sushi Night **on the brink of disaster**?

Gordon

I need more sushi rice - I'm going to have to go and buy some - you wouldn't know what to get. Mary why don't you entertain the customers by reading your... philosophy thesis?

Mary

Hang on Ceilia, isn't this the rice Gordon was using?

Ceilia

I think so.

Mary

OK, leave it to me.

CAPTION: 10 MINUTES LATER

Gordon

I've told him before, if he does this again... what kind of Asian supermarket doesn't sell sushi rice?! This whole evening is a disaster... oh... Where'd you get that?

Ceilia

Disaster averted! Mary made these and saved the day again. Peter!

Peter

Yes?

Ceilia

Can you take these out to the customers and apologise for the delay?

Peter

That was **a close shave**.

Gordon

Yes, good thing I always make a point of having some spare ingredients.

Vocabulary

a recipe for disaster

something that will obviously go very wrong

up the creek without a paddle

in a difficult situation with no way of making it better

on the brink of disaster

about to go wrong

disaster averted

a bad situation has just been avoided

a close shave

(also) a bad situation has just been avoided

Questions

1. Why does Gordon say 'we're up the creek without a paddle'?

(Hint: There's an ingredient he needs)

- a) He's run out of raw fish
- b) He doesn't know how to make sushi
- c) He's hasn't got any more sushi rice

2. What word does Ceilia use to mean at the point of going wrong?

(Hint: Look at the vocab reference again.)

- a) Brink
- b) Disaster
- c) Averted

3. Why did Ceilia say 'disaster averted'?

(Hint: What does this phrase mean?)

- a) Because Mary bought some more rice
- b) Because Mary made some more sushi rice
- c) Because Peter made some more sushi rice

Answers

1. Why does Gordon say 'we're up the creek without a paddle'?

a) He's run out of raw fish

(Wrong. That's not the answer.)

b) He doesn't know how make sushi

(Not correct. Try again.)

c) He's hasn't got any more sushi rice

(That's right. He thinks he's in a difficult situation because he's run out of sushi rice!)

2. What word does Ceilia use to mean at the point of going wrong?

a) **Brink**

(Correct. That's the word. Well done!)

b) Disaster

(Sorry, that's not right. Try again.)

c) Averted

(Not correct. That means avoided.)

3. Why did Ceilia say 'disaster averted'?

a) Because Mary bought some more rice

(Wrong. That's not quite what happened.)

b) Because Mary made some more sushi rice

(That's right. Well done!)

c) Because Peter made some more sushi rice

(Not correct. It wasn't Peter!)