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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The White Elephant

### 30: Hope



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

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**Peter**

It's quiet tonight.

**Mary**

I know. It's a bit of a worry - Ceilia said tonight was our **last hope**. If we don't get any customers we might have to close.

**Gordon**

Well, **don't get your hopes up**. This place has been **on its knees** ever since it opened. We've all had a laugh but I need to get a job at a proper restaurant, where the customers are queuing up to eat my food.

**Mary**

Don't **pin your hopes on it**. It was your cooking that scared the customers away anyway. Hang on, did I just hear somebody come in?

**Peter**

I'll go and check.

**Gordon**

**To be honest**, I might be able to take you with me, to my new job – but Peter – not a chance.

**Mary**

I can only **live in hope!**

**Peter**

Yes, we've got two customers! And they want... a cheese and tomato pizza. Can we do pizzas?

**Gordon**

Can we do pizzas? **Not a hope in hell!** Do I look like a chef who cooks 'pizzas'?!

**Mary**

Come on Gordon. We're **pinning our hopes** on keeping these customers... you do know how to cook a pizza don't you?

**Gordon**

Yes... well... it's just a little bit beneath me... but I suppose I can give it a go.

**Mary**

Good. I'll tell Ceilia the good news.

**Gordon**

Peter. Here's £10 – run to the supermarket and buy some frozen pizzas. But shhh, it's our little secret.

**Peter**

OK.

**10 MINUTES LATER**

**Ceilia**

Mmmm, something smells good. Great news about getting all the customers in – even though they only like pizza! It seems like there's **a glimmer of hope** for the business.

**Ceilia**

Looking good. Maybe pizzas are our future?

**Peter**

Yes, they're not bad for frozen pizzas are they?

**Ceilia**

Frozen?! Oh you've **dashed my hopes**. This is **the last straw**... I'm going to have to find a *real* chef... and not one that is as arrogant as you!

**Gordon**

But what am I going to do? I can't just get a new job just like that.

**Ceilia**

There might not be hope for you but I think I might have the perfect answer.

**LATER...**

**Mary**

How's your new job Gordon? Can I borrow your hat? Thank you!

## Vocabulary

### last hope

final chance (to do something)

### don't get your hopes up

what you expect to happen probably won't

### on its knees

struggling; in a bad condition

### pin your hopes on it

expect or hope it will happen

### to be honest

what I really think

### live in hope

hope that what you want to happen will eventually happen

### not a hope in hell!

absolutely no chance of succeeding

### a glimmer of hope

small chance of something succeeding

### dashed my hopes

let me down; stopped me expecting something good

### the last straw

the last of a number of events that has gone wrong

## Questions

1. Why doesn't Gordon want to cook pizza?

(Hint: Something to do with his 'great' skills.)

- a) He doesn't know how to cook them.
- b) It's too simple.
- c) He doesn't have the correct ingredients.

2. What does Mary say to mean we are hoping this will happen to keep our customers?

(Hint: Check out the vocab reference.)

- a) We're hoping for pins
- b) We're pinning our hopes
- c) We're pining our hopes

3. What is the 'last straw' for Ceilia?

(Hint: What did Gordon actually cook?)

- a) He bought frozen pizzas to cook.
- b) He only spent £10 on frozen pizzas.
- c) He can't find a new job.

## Answers

1. Why doesn't Gordon want to cook pizza?

a) He doesn't know how to cook them.

Wrong. It's not that.

**b) It's too simple.**

**Correct. He says it's 'beneath me'.**

c) He doesn't have the correct ingredients.

Not correct.

2. What does Mary say to mean we are hoping this will happen to keep our customers?

a) We're hoping for pins

Incorrect. That's not the right phrase.

**b) We're pinning our hopes**

**Correct. That's what she said.**

c) We're pining our hopes

Wrong. Check the spelling!

3. What is the 'last straw' for Ceilia?

**a) He bought frozen pizzas to cook.**

**Yes that's right and Ceilia wasn't impressed!**

b) He only spent £10 on frozen pizzas.

Wrong. That isn't the reason.

c) He can't find a new job.

Wrong. That isn't the reason.