
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

If the cap fits



This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

Welcome to The English We Speak. Hello, I'm Feifei...

Rob

...and hello, I'm Rob. Feifei, why the sad face?

Feifei

It's not a sad face, it's an angry face.

Rob

Oh no, has someone upset you?

Feifei

They sure have. I've just overheard Neil saying I have no fashion sense – he says I dress like I'm living in the 1980s!

Rob

Ouch!

Feifei

And he says my clothes are uncoordinated and dated!

Rob

Well, Feifei. I hate to say it, but if the cap fits...

Feifei

What cap? I don't wear hats.

Rob

No, Feifei. I mean, the criticism is probably true and you should accept it. In other words, he's probably right.

Feifei

Hmm! Rob, I can't believe you agree with Neil!

Rob

Let's hear some examples, shall we?

Examples

A: My boyfriend calls me messy and untidy - what a cheek!

B: Well, if the cap fits.

You say your teacher thinks you're lazy because you never do your homework? Well, if the cap fits!

A: They think I ate all the biscuits because I was the only one in the kitchen last night.

B: Well, if the cap fits!

Rob

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English and we're finding out about the phrase 'if the cap fits', which means you agree with someone's criticism or an opinion about someone else - and they should accept it. But Feifei, you're claiming you can't accept what Neil said about your fashion sense. So you're saying, the cap *doesn't* fit?

Feifei

Exactly. But Neil is rude, unkind and tactless.

Rob

Absolutely!

Feifei

And you are the same for agreeing with him. So Rob, 'if the cap fits'...

Rob

I know... I should wear it! Actually, Feifei, your clothes aren't that bad. You look very fashionable in fact.

Feifei

You're a hypocrite too. Rob, keep wearing that cap!

Rob

Fair enough. See ya.

Feifei

Bye.