BBC Learning English Authentic Real English 地道英语 Take with a pinch of salt *将信将疑*

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Kaz:	Hi. You're listening to Authentic Real English. I'm Kaz and today I'm having dinner at Li's house.
Li:	Hi, I'm Li. And I've prepared some chocolate mousse for dessert.
Kaz:	Oh thanks. I love chocolate mousse. Mmm, it's delicious.
Li:	Good! Anyway, what was I saying? Oh yes, I don't know if I want to stay in this house. I mean, Chris thinks it's haunted and that there are some ghosts here! Chris 觉得这房子有点闹鬼。He says he can sense their presence
Kaz:	Really? I can't sense anything.
Li:	Shhh listen? 我好像听到什么声响。Can you hear something?
Kaz:	No Li, I can't hear anything. Just the wind outside. And if you want my advice, you should take it with a pinch of salt.
Li:	OK, I will Yuck! It's disgusting.
Kaz:	Li, what are you doing?
Li:	I just ate my chocolate mousse with a pinch of salt, as you suggested, and it's absolutely disgusting! 我照你的建议在巧克力蛋糕里放进去一撮盐,太难吃了!
Kaz:	Li, I was talking about what Chris said about ghosts in your house. In English, if you take something with a pinch of salt, it means you don't believe it completely.
Li:	Really? 如果我对什么事情不全信,就可以说 to take something with a pinch of salt, 对什么事放进去一撮盐,很有意思,其实这就是我们汉语里说的将信将疑。
Kaz:	Yes, and sometimes Chris does exaggerate so you shouldn't always believe everything he says.
Li:	Let's have a look at some more examples:

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<u>Examples</u>

- A: Apparently they're going to sell the company and make everyone redundant.
- B: You should take it with a pinch of salt; it's only a rumour.
- *C*: The other day he told me he speaks 23 languages fluently.
- D: I take everything he says with a pinch of salt because I know he likes to exaggerate.
- Li: Ah, right. 在 Chris 告诉我这房子里有鬼的时候我应该打个问号,说不定是想故意吓 唬我的! Maybe he's just making it up to scare me!
- **Kaz:** I'm sure he just said it as a joke. Do you want some chocolate mousse? Without a pinch of salt this time?
- **Li:** Good idea. Mmm, 不放盐的蛋糕的确很好吃。

(Sound of banging, creaking)

Li: What was that?

Kaz: It's probably the wind.

(Ghost sounds – oooooo oooooo)

- Li: It's not the wind. Someone is in the house! Look, there's someone coming into the room!
- Voice: O0000, O0000000, I'm a ghost!

Kaz: What the...? I recognise that voice.

- Li: Chris? Is that you? Why are you covered in a white sheet?
- Chris: I am a ghost that has come to haunt you... I heard you made some chocolate mousse, Li, so I came over to eat some... Ooooo...
- Li: You scared us! I really do have to take what you say and do with a pinch of salt.
- Chris: Mmm... delicious!
- All: Bye!
- Li: Unbelievable!

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