

BBC Learning English
Authentic Real English 地道英语
Fishing for compliments
拐弯抹角谋求恭维



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- Li:** Hello and welcome to Authentic Real English, I'm Li and with me today is Rob.
- Rob:** Shhh Li, be quiet. I think I've nearly caught one.
- Li:** Caught what?
- Rob:** A fish! That's why we're fishing – to catch a fish.
- Li:** Ah yes. 我们正在钓鱼, 希望有收获, 钓一条大鱼。
- Rob:** I did say I would teach you the art of fishing – how to cast off and how to reel in a massive fish.
- Li:** Rob! 这么说你对钓鱼很在行?
- Rob:** Yes, I've been doing it for years... I once caught a massive shark... it was THIS big... but I'm not that good at it. I just do it for fun really, I'm not competitive or anything like that!
- Li:** Of course you're not! Rob 是在想办法谋求恭维。 Rob, are you hoping to catch some compliments today?
- Rob:** How big are they exactly?
- Li:** No. Compliments 我说的是恭维。当我们形容某人是在“fishing for compliments”意思就是说一个人假装谦虚为了让别人说一些表扬的话, 恭维自己。 So Rob, you want me to say something good about your fishing?
- Rob:** No... not really... well, just one compliment maybe?
- Li:** Hmm, I'll have a think while we listen to some examples of this phrase:

Examples

Jean was fishing for compliments about her outfit when she pretended she only took five minutes to get ready!

John kept saying he couldn't run very fast but he still won the race; I think he was just fishing for compliments.

Fred: Oh I can only speak a few words of French. I'm no good at languages.

Jane: Oh stop fishing for compliments Fred – we know you can speak five languages!

Li: 听出来了吗? “Fishing for compliments” 就是拐弯抹角谋求恭维。Well Rob, I am impressed with your fishing skills – look, you've actually caught something!

Rob: Oh yes – quick, let's pull it in.

Li: Oh Rob, it's just an old shoe. Perhaps you were right, you're not very good at fishing – but that's ok, I'm not much good either, all I've managed to catch today is this 50 kilogram salmon – what do you think?

Rob: *(genuinely impressed)* Wow – for a first time, that is amazing. I think that deserves a compliment...

Li: 瞧, Rob 这么佩服我, 肯定要恭维我一番哟! Go on then Rob...

Rob: I was going to say the eyes on that fish look just like yours!

Li: Hmm, that wasn't the compliment I was fishing for. In you go...

SPLASH

Li: ...fish for your own compliments! Bye.

Rob: Bye. Can you get me out please?