BBC Learning English Authentic Real English 地道英语 Pie in the sky 难以实现的美梦



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- Li: I'm so happy you invited me to come to the woods to do some bird-watching with you, Finn.
- **Finn:** I'm glad you came along, Li. It's a very British hobby. We love nature and the different species of birds. That one, for example, is a swallow.
- Li: Oh. Pass me the binoculars please.
- **Finn:** Can you see how beautiful it is?
- Li: Oh, I can see it clearly. It's tiny. It must be a young one. It's good that the mayor has promised to preserve these woods, Finn.
- **Finn:** I wish they would stop building shopping centres everywhere. But preserving all these areas is pie in the sky, Li.
- Li: Pie in the sky? Where? These binoculars are good but I can't see any pie!
- **Finn:** No, there is no actual pie up there, Li. In English, we use the expression 'pie in the sky' to talk about something good that we would like to happen but which is unlikely to.
- Li: 听上去呀,英语里的 pie in the sky 很类似汉语里的天上的馅儿饼,指那些虚幻的美景, 那些难以实现的梦想。So you think the idea of preserving these woods is good but they might end up building a shopping centre here?
- **Finn:** Exactly. Unfortunately, I think these businesses are too powerful.
- Li: Let's not lose hope, Finn.
- **Finn:** Well, 'pie in the sky' is the expression in this edition of Authentic Real English. Now let's hear some examples of how it's used.

Examples

When my bank manager says the stock market is sure to recover by the end of the year, that's clearly pie in the sky.

Mary's plans to live a life of luxury are just pie in the sky. She doesn't have much money.

Li: Well, I must admit that the idea of pie has made me hungry.

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- **Finn:** Yeah, I'm hungry too. Let's go back to town and find a place where they serve tasty pies.
- Li: Yes! I love cherry pie! Bye bye little birdies!
- Finn: Yum yum! Bye.

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