## BBC Learning English Authentic Real English 地道英语 Cold Feet 胆怯



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**Li:** Hi Rob. How are you today?

**Rob:** Hello Li. I'm really angry.

Li: Why?

**Rob:** Well, because I work very hard, I get results, I do much more than I

really should, and nobody notices - I don't get any recognition.

**Li:** Yes, you do work hard, Rob. You should earn a fortune!

**Rob:** I know, you see. That's it! I'm going to go and see the boss right now! I

am going to ask for a pay rise!

**Li:** Good on you, Rob. Right now?

**Rob:** Yes, right now!

(brief silence)

**Li:** Rob... you're not going anywhere?

**Rob:** Yes, I know.

**Li:** So what are you waiting for?

**Rob:** Well... actually, I'm getting cold feet.

Li: That's no problem at all. Let's see... I have a solution right here... There

you go. Take these.

**Rob:** Thick, woolly socks?

Li: Yes. Well you should feel warm when talking to a tough boss like ours!

Come on, use these.

**Rob:** It's okay. There's nothing wrong with my feet, Li. In English, when we say

we've 'got cold feet' we mean we lack the confidence or courage to do

something.

Li: Oh, I see.... 原来所谓的脚发凉 'cold feet' 意思就是汉语中的腿发软的意思,换句

话说就是胆怯了,没有信心和勇气了。

**Rob:** Yes, I must admit I am a bit. Let's hear some examples of how to use

today's expression 'cold feet'.

## **Examples**

Mary knew Tony had bought her engagement ring and was planning to propose on Valentine's Day. She just hoped he wouldn't get cold feet before then.

The company directors were getting cold feet about a deal which could make or break their business.

**Rob:** So, no need for these socks. But thank you anyway, Li.

**Li:** Maybe next week you can approach the boss and remind him what a good

worker you are.

**Rob:** Good idea. Maybe that's the right way to do it.

**Li:** One thing is true: your cold feet saved you from your hot head.

**Rob:** Yes, indeed!

**Li:** Bye-bye.

**Rob:** Bye.