BBC Learning English Authentic Real English 地道英语

Have a lot on my plate 自顾不暇



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Feifei: This is a great restaurant, Finn. I'm glad we could finally come here and

try out their new menu.

Finn: It is a good restaurant, Feifei. But, well, I haven't been able to relax and

enjoy a nice meal in the last few weeks.

Feifei: Really?

Finn: Yeah, well, I'm moving home soon...

Feifei: Oh, I know how difficult it is to find a new flat.

Finn: Yes. And my grandmother has been complaining that I don't visit her in

Scotland very often...

Feifei: Yes, our elders like us to visit every now and again.

Finn: And this new project at work...

Feifei: I've noticed that you have been working late...

Finn: I simply have too much on my plate right now!

Feifei: Oh, if you have too much on your plate, can I help you?

Finn: Yes, well, that would be nice...

Feifei: Leave it to me. Let me take some of this lovely looking chicken from you.

Mmm... this is very tasty...

Finn: Feifei, what are you doing?! You're taking food from my plate?!

Feifei: Mmmm... I must find out how they cook this chicken. It tastes so good!

Finn: Feifei, I didn't mean for you to take food from my plate. In English, when

you say you 'have a lot on your plate' or 'too much on your plate', you mean you have a lot of work to do or a lot of problems to deal with.

Feifei: You have a lot on your plate 意思就是你有很多事儿要处理已经忙不过来了,我

们也可以用 too much on your plate 这个表达,它俩的意思是一样的。

Finn: 'Have a lot on my plate' is today's expression in Authentic Real English.

Let's hear some examples of how it's used.

Examples

Ann has a lot on her plate at the moment. She's just had twins!

Sorry, but the manager can't speak to you today. The company is launching new products next week and she's got too much on her plate right now.

Feifei: Oh, so this expression has nothing to do with this delicious food you have

on your plate.

Finn: Come on, Feifei. You knew this expression already – you just wanted to

pinch my chicken!

Feifei: Okay, quilty as charged! This chicken looks so appetising... and these

potatoes and...

Finn: Feifei, I can share them with you.

Feifei: Thank you, Finn. And you can share the workload, too. I can help you

with your new project so you'll have time to go and visit your granny.

Finn: Feifei, I'm very grateful. Here, have some more potatoes. And... I like the

look of that carrot mash you have on your plate.

Feifei: Here, have some... this food is lovely! We'll have clean plates in no time

at all. Bye.

Finn: Bye.