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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Authentic Real English 地道英语

### Eat humble pie 承认错误

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#### **Rob**

Hi, Feifei. I'm glad you've come to watch me train for the pie-eating competition. I'm going to be the new champion! I'm so sure of it - no one's going to beat me, I'm the best!

#### **Feifei**

Rob, 你让我赌你赢，可你到底能赢吗？How can you be so sure you are going to win?

#### **Rob**

Because I love eating.

#### **Feifei**

But you are so thin. 你这么瘦，胃能装得下十个派吗？

#### **Rob**

They will - I'll eat them all and very quickly.

#### **Feifei**

真的假的，你等等，我来计时。Are you ready?

#### **Rob**

Oh yes!

#### **Feifei**

Here we go!

#### **Rob**

OK, here we go! (eating the pies)

#### **Feifei**

Well, two down... 还有八个。

#### **Rob**

(eating more pies)

**Feifei**

That's four now... five and...

**Rob**

Oh dear! I can't eat anymore!

**Feifei**

真吃不下了？

**Rob**

Yes, I'm full up!

**Feifei**

你肯定还能再吃一个，要不然你可就得吃 **humble pie** 啦。

**Rob**

Humble pie? I won't have room for any type of pie. I'm stuffed! But I see what you mean. I'll have to admit that I was wrong when I said I could eat all those pies.

**Feifei**

Yes. 我们用短语 **eat humble pie** 来描述某人因为无法完成自己所吹嘘的一件事，而不得不向他人承认错误、道歉。

**Rob**

That person then has to act in an apologetic way. 'To eat humble pie' is today's expression in Authentic Real English. Let's hear some examples of how it's used.

### **Examples**

*The factory owner had to eat humble pie after a lot of customers complained about his product.*

*Peter is so arrogant. He said he could finish the work much quicker than anybody else in the office. I hope he has to eat humble pie.*

**Rob**

So, I can't eat ten pies in a few minutes after all. We still have all these pies, which are very tasty, actually. You can have some, Feifei.

**Feifei**

Thank you. 这个短语的用法挺奇怪的哈，不知道起源是什么。

**Rob**

Well, some people say it might have come from 'umbles', which is an old word for animal organs like kidneys, intestines, etc. In the past, rich people might have considered eating an 'umbles pie' as a punishment. But who knows?

**Feifei**

Well, Rob, I don't think eating all those pies is a punishment. We just have to eat one at a time and enjoy each one.

**Rob**

Good idea! OK. Shall we start now?

**Feifei**

Yes.

**Rob**

Here it goes. OK. Bye bye!

**Feifei**

Bye!

**Rob**

Lovely!