
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Authentic Real English 地道英语

Water off a duck's back 水过鸭背 耳旁风



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Rob

Hi Feifei. What a beautiful woollen shawl you're wearing! But it looks far too elegant to use for just another day in the office...

Feifei

I know. 可不是吗，我其实带来是要借给 Lisa 用的，她可是刚升官了啊。

Rob

Really. But she's hardly even said hello to you since her promotion and you used to be friends...

Feifei

I know. She's been giving me the cold shoulder. 所以我这不才赶紧给她带了条毛披肩 woollen shawl。

Rob

Feifei, you do know there's a difference between Lisa's shoulders being cold because it's winter and her 'giving you the cold shoulder', don't you? You can't just warm her shoulders and then be friends again.

Feifei

Yes, I do. 在英语里，我们用 **give the cold shoulder** 直译“给冷肩膀”这个短语来形容一个人对其他人十分冷漠，爱搭不理的态度。Rob，这个短语也暗示了此人觉得自己高高在上，对吧？

Rob

Yes. It means they are rejecting you or ignoring you. And 'give the cold shoulder' is today's expression in Authentic Real English.

Feifei

我们来听几个例句。

Examples

After Mary divorced her rich husband all their friends gave her the cold shoulder. She was not invited to their lavish parties anymore.

My brother told our parents I haven't been studying at all and my marks are low. I'm not happy and I've been giving him the cold shoulder. Let's see if he's got the message.

Feifei

唉 Rob, 我知道 **give someone the cold shoulder** 就是不愿意搭理某人, 但我觉得还是有希望用这条披肩挽回我和 Lisa 的友谊。

Rob

How come?

Feifei

Lisa 特别喜欢时尚, 尤其是名牌衣服。等她一看见我这条这么贵的披肩, 肯定立马就变我好朋友了。

Rob

Well, and if you lend it to her, she might not feel cold anymore... it's been rather cold in the last few weeks...

Feifei

Yes. This woollen shawl will stop her having cold shoulders and might even stop her giving me the cold shoulder. How about that?

Rob

Now that is a clever use of the English language.

Feifei

Bye.

Rob

Bye bye.