BBC LEARNING ENGLISH
Authentic Real English 地道英语
To cut your teeth 初次尝试做某事

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Feifei
大家好，欢迎收听《地道英语》节目。我是冯菲菲。

Rob
Hello, everyone.

Feifei
Rob, are you OK? You look in pain.

Rob
Well, I am, you see – I've just been to the dentist. Ouch.

Feifei
The dentist 牙医，我特怕去看牙。But I guess you had to go to research today's piece of authentic English?

Rob
Excuse me?

Feifei
因为本期节目我们要给大家介绍的表达是"cut your teeth"，所以你肯定是因为这个表达专门去了趟牙医那儿。

Rob
Sorry, Feifei, that's one tooth-related expression that doesn't need a dentist. When you 'cut your teeth' you get your first experience doing something in a particular job.

Feifei
明白了，原来表达 cut your teeth 或 cut one's teeth 的意思是"初次尝试做某事，初次接触一个工作或涉足一个领域"。So it's like work experience?

Rob
Yes. That's one way of learning a new skill which you might use later in your job. I cut my teeth in radio production by working in local radio…

Feifei
… and you're still cutting your teeth now, Rob?

Rob
Ha ha, let's hear some examples of this phrase, shall we?

Examples
Dan cut his teeth on a local newspaper before landing a job on a national daily.

He cut his teeth running the junior football club before becoming a professional referee.

Feifei
我们用表达 cut one's teeth 来描述一个人"初次获得某个工作的经验"。We could say it's where you get your basic skills.

Rob
Correct. So where do you think you cut your teeth for this job, Feifei?

Feifei
I cut my media teeth at university.

Rob
Ouch!

Feifei
Sorry, what did I say?

Rob
No, sorry. It's not you. It's this filling I had done – that's why I went to the dentist. He really was rough.

Feifei
其实 Rob 刚才去牙医那儿是补了一颗牙，他说牙医的手有点重。Rob, I think you should go home and rest.

Rob
Good idea. Bye bye.

Feifei
Bye.