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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Authentic Real English 地道英语

### Donkey's years 很长时间

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**Feifei**

大家好! 欢迎收听 BBC 英语教学的《地道英语》节目, 我是冯菲菲。

**Rob**

And I'm...Rob.

**Feifei**

Err...sorry, Rob. What did you say?

**Rob**

I said I'm...Rob.

**Feifei**

Right, and why have you brought a donkey into the studio?

**Rob**

To help with today's authentic English phrase, which is 'donkey's years'.

**Feifei**

原来 Rob 拉了一头驴来是为了教我们一个英语表达 “donkey's years”。

**Rob**

The phrase comes from rhyming slang – ‘donkey's years’ rhymes with ‘donkey's ears’, yes?

**Feifei**

Yes. “Donkey's years” 和 “donkey's ears” 听上去是押韵的。

**Rob**

Now, donkey's ears are long and when we say we haven't done something for 'donkey's years' we mean we haven't done something for a long time.

**Feifei**

原来是这样。“Donkey's ears 驴的耳朵” 和 “donkey's years 驴的年份” 听起来很押韵;

那么大家都知道驴的耳朵比较长，所以在英语口语里，人们用 “donkey's years” 来形容 “很长一段时间”。

**Rob**

Let's hear the phrase in action.

**Examples**

I'm so bored; I've been doing this job for donkey's years!

I haven't driven a car for donkey's years; I hope I can remember what to do.

We've got to go to Lily's party; I haven't seen her for donkey's years so it'll be great to catch up.

**Feifei**

我们可以用 “donkey's years” 来特别强调 “很久，很长一段时间没有做一件事情”。  
So Rob, I could say 'we haven't been to the cinema for donkey's years?'

**Rob**

Yes and you'd be correct. We haven't. Shall we go now?

**Feifei**

OK. But does your donkey have to come, too?

**Rob**

Oh look, he's very excited!

**Feifei**

Yuk! I can see...What's that on the floor?

**Rob**

Oh, yes. Perhaps we'll leave him shall we, clear that up later. Perhaps he could present some more programmes while we're away.

**Feifei**

Ha! That is donkey work. Bye!

**Rob**

Bye-bye.