BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Authentic Real English 地道英语 Barking up the wrong tree



英国人用"喊错了树"表示"攻击错了目标"

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Feifei

大家好,欢迎来到 BBC 英语教学的《地道英语》节目。我是冯菲菲。

Rob

And I'm Rob. Hello. Errr, Feifei, you're looking a bit angry.

Feifei

我怎么能不生气呢? I am angry.

Rob

Oh no, what's the problem?

Feifei

I think you know Rob. Somebody told the boss that I spilt coffee over his computer yesterday – and now he's angry with me.

Rob

Oh no. What kind of mean and horrible person would try and get you into trouble?

Feifei

说的就是啊,到底是谁给我栽赃? You and the boss were the only people left in the office last night. Hmmm?

Rob

Whoa – hold on Feifei. If you are implying it was me who told the boss, then you are barking up the wrong tree.

Feifei

Please don't make me any angrier by saying that I am like a dog!

Rob

No, no Feifei. Just calm down, I should be angry because you are making the wrong assumption about who told the boss, ok? That's what I mean by barking up the wrong tree – you want to blame someone but you got the wrong person. I didn't even know you'd done it.

Feifei

OK, I'm sorry. 原来英国人在对话中用表达"barking up the wrong tree 喊错了树"来描述一个人在寻找一件事的缘由时,找错了原因,攻击错了对象。我想知道是谁告诉老板我把咖啡洒在他的电脑上,但我错怪了 Rob,所以我"barked up the wrong tree"。Shall we listen to some examples while I make you a coffee to say sorry?

Examples

If you think I have enough spare cash to pay for your holiday, then you're barking up the wrong tree.

You're barking up the wrong tree if you think I was the one who said you were leaving. It wasn't me!

You're barking up the wrong tree if you think I'm going to lend you my car. I've seen how you drive!

Feifei

这里是 BBC 英语教学的《地道英语》节目。在这集节目里,我们正在一起学习表达 "barking up the wrong tree"。它被用来指一个人捕风捉影,找错了对象,错怪了别人。

Rob

The phrase can also mean 'doing something in a way that will not work' – you're basically wasting your time. Like a detective trying to solve a crime by obviously arresting the wrong man – he's barking up the wrong tree.

Feifei

OK Rob, understood. Here's your coffee to say sorry for barking up the wrong tree.

Rob

Thanks – make sure you don't spill it this time – the boss would be really angry! Oh, what did I say?

Feifei

If I find out you did tell the boss, I'll make sure to bark up the right tree, OK?

Rob

OK Feifei, I hope your bark is worse than your bite. Bye-bye.

Feifei Bye.			