
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Authentic Real English 地道英语

Small talk

寒暄



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Feifei

大家好，欢迎来到 BBC 英语教学的《地道英语》节目。先来介绍我的搭档 Rob。

Rob

And you are Feifei. So, Feifei, how did the blind date go?

Feifei

Not great. 我去相亲，但又失败了，都怪 Rob。

Rob

Oh, no! Why didn't you just follow my advice?

Feifei

I did! Wear something nice, turn up late and make small talk.

Rob

Yes, exactly – make small talk.

Feifei

Well, when I started making small talk, the guy looked at me in a strange way and then walked off!

Rob

Oh, no! What did you say?

Feifei

Things like 'hi', 'good', 'yes', 'no', 'great' – small words.

Rob

Umm... But no sentences? I think you've got the wrong end of the stick here – I mean you've misunderstood – making small talk means making informal conversation about unimportant things. If you're meeting someone for the first time, it's a good way to make them feel relaxed. You know, break the ice.

Feifei

原来 Rob 让我和相亲的对象礼貌寒暄，东拉西扯地聊一聊，谈一些轻松的话题，不用特别严肃，这样双方都会感到比较放松。人们把这种寒暄、交谈的方式称为“small talk”。

Rob

I guess we should hear some examples.

Examples

I didn't know anybody at my cousin's wedding so I tried to make small talk with the guests.

I'm shy and not very good at small talk. That's why I hate going to parties.

At the office party, we all had to stand around making small talk, but all I really wanted to do was go home!

Feifei

这里是 BBC 英语教学的《地道英语》节目。本集节目里介绍的表达是“small talk”，它指的是与不认识或不熟悉的人之间的寒暄和对话。这类对话通过谈论轻松的话题使交谈双方感到更放松，避免尴尬的沉默。Actually, Rob, I do know about small talk, it's just that...

Rob

Oh, so why didn't you say?

Feifei

Well, I was going to tell you that...

Rob

You'll never get a boyfriend if you don't speak up, Feifei! You really need to talk more.

Feifei

Rob.

Rob

Yes?

Feifei

What I was trying to say was, I did not have time for small talk because my date would not stop talking. He was rude, arrogant and wouldn't let me get a word in edgeways! Now who does that remind me of?

Rob

Umm... Nice weather for the time of year, don't you think?

Feifei

It's a bit late for small talk now, Rob. You've said far too much.

Rob

Oh.

Feifei

Bye-bye!

Rob

Bye!