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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Authentic Real English 地道英语

### Skeleton crew

### 最低人数的工作人员

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- 关于台词的备注:  
这不是广播节目的逐字稿件。本文稿可能没有体现录制、编辑过程中对节目做出的改变。

#### 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。

#### Roy

...and me, Roy.

#### Feifei

我们可能听起来与以往有些不同，这是因为在新冠肺炎疫情爆发期间，我们无法在平时的录音间录制节目。

在这期节目中，我们要教给大家的这个说法可以用来描述一个企业或者机构运转需要的最低人数的工作人员。Speaking of which, there are not many people working in the train stations today.

#### Roy

No, you're right. It's because of the strikes on the trains.

#### Feifei

Ah, so that's why it was hard to get a train this morning! The train companies decided to run the trains on a skeleton crew!

#### Roy

What!? Skeletons driving the trains? Is this some kind of ghost story? Ooh, I think I'll walk home!

#### Feifei

No, Roy! “Skeleton crew”和骷髅没有任何关系。“Skeleton crew”指的是运营一家企业或机构所需的最低人数。

**Roy**

Ah... yes, and it's usually in times of crisis or during an emergency, for example the coronavirus, that people run businesses with a skeleton crew.

**Feifei**

Exactly. Let's listen to these examples.

**Examples**

Due to the financial problems of the company, the office will be run with a skeleton crew for the foreseeable future.

The Covid-19 emergency means that we will run the buses with a skeleton crew until further notice.

A skeleton crew will be needed to keep the park open over the winter months.

**Feifei**

你正在收听的是 BBC 英语教学的“地道英语”。在这期节目里，我们教给大家的地道表达是“skeleton crew”。它指的是运营一家企业或机构所需的最低员工人数。

**Roy**

I love the expression 'skeleton crew'. It makes me think of a pirate ship run by skeletons.

**Feifei**

我们也可以把“skeleton crew”换成“skeleton staff”，意思不变。

**Roy**

Well, one good thing when there's a skeleton staff at work is that there is no queue for the cafeteria!

**Feifei**

Trust you to think about food!

**Roy**

Well, I'm just glad that there aren't real skeletons working at the BBC. That's just in horror stories!

**Feifei**

Exactly, you don't need worry about skeletons walking around. They're not real! It's vampires you need to worry about! Ha ha ha...

**Roy**  
What?

**Feifei**  
Bye, Roy.

**Roy**  
Bye, Feifei.