BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Authentic Real English 地道英语 You couldn't make it up



难以置信

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Jiaying

大家好,欢迎收听 BBC 英语教学的"地道英语"节目,我是佳莹。

Neil

And hello, I'm Neil. Hey, Jiaying, I've just been to that cafe downstairs and guess what...

Jiaying

You bought me a coffee?

Neil

No! I didn't buy any coffee because now you have to make your own coffee - and you have to bring your own cup. What kind of cafe is that?

Jiaying

You couldn't make it up!

Neil

But I didn't make it up.

Jiaying

我知道,我相信你。我们用"you couldn't make it up"来感叹"事情或情况出乎意 料,让人难以置信、无法想象"。话说回来,他们为什么要这样做呢?

Neil

Something to do with 'health and safety' – who could come up with an idea like that?

Jiaying

Like I said, you couldn't make it up. Here are some more examples of this phrase...

Examples

The breakdown van that's coming to fix my car has broken down – you couldn't make it up!

The session about punctuality will start late because the speaker has been delayed – you couldn't make it up!

You couldn't make it up – the cake shop has started a 'healthy eating' campaign.

Jiaying

你正在收听的是 BBC 英语教学的"地道英语"节目。上面,我们介绍了口语表达"you couldn't make it up",用来感叹"事情或情况令人难以置信或十分荒谬"。So, Neil, where are you going to get your coffee from now?

Neil

Probably from the other cafe across the street.

Jiaying

Oh, haven't you heard? At that cafe, you have to bring your own coffee beans and milk if you want them to make you a coffee – something to do with saving storage space.

Neil

How ridiculous – you couldn't make it up.

Jiaying

Actually, I did make it up – just so you could say the phrase one more time!

Neil

Thanks! I'm going to get my coffee now, and I'm not getting you one.

Jiaying

It's OK, Neil. I've got one already. Bye.

Neil

Hmm. You didn't make that up, did you?