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**Li:** 大家好, 欢迎收听《地道英语》节目, 我是杨莉, 我的搭档 Rob 也在这里。Hi Rob.

**Rob:** Hello Li.

**Li:** 我刚买了一个新衣橱, 是平整式包装的, 我不知道怎么组装, Rob 今天主动来帮我, 太好了! So Rob, thanks for offering to help me build my new wardrobe. It's come in a hundred pieces and I don't know where to begin.

**Rob:** No problem Li, I'm happy to lend a hand. I'm great at building furniture!

**Li:** Good because the instructions seem so confusing. This bit here... doesn't fit... here.

**Rob:** Let's have a look. Give it to me. Let's look at these instructions. Yes, simple. It's crystal clear!

**Li:** Crystal clear? Rob 说什么水晶 clear! Rob, my wardrobe may look fancy but there are no crystals in it.

**Rob:** I know that. I just mean the instructions are obvious – they are simple and clear to understand. If we say something is crystal clear we simply mean it is very clear – just like high-quality glass. Is that clear?

**Li:** It is. 如果形容某事为 crystal clear 意思就是非常清楚, 清清楚楚, 很容易明白。I suppose, literally it means as clear as a crystal?

**Rob:** Exactly. Let's hear some examples of this idiom in action:

### **Examples**

*The man's directions were crystal clear and we arrived at the station early.*

*Mum made it crystal clear that we wouldn't be going to the party.*

**Li:** 从以上例句中我们可以判断出, crystal clear 的意思就是非常清楚, 清清楚楚, 很容易明白。But Rob, what I can't understand is why you find these instructions crystal clear and I can't?

**Rob:** That's easy – you had them upside down.

**Li:** Silly me!

**Rob:** But if you just put that piece of wood in there... and put a screw in there... and hook the doors onto there... your wardrobe will be complete. Is that clear?

**Li:** Crystal clear!

**Rob:** Good. But as I'm here now, I'll finish it for you. *(Noises of Rob building wardrobe)* There you go... what do you think?

**Li:** *(Tapping the wood)* Yes, it seems quite solid... oh no...  
*(Wardrobe collapses)*

**Li:** Oh dear. 现在我可是真正地明白了。

**Rob:** Oh yes, what's that?

**Li:** I will never ask for you to help me build a wardrobe again. Is that clear?

**Rob:** Crystal!

**Both:** Bye.