



A wild card
未知数，外卡

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Rob

Hello and welcome to Authentic Real English. I'm Rob and joining me today is Feifei.

Feifei

大家好！咱们办公室新来的那位同事听起来不错的哈？What about that new guy who's started in the office?

Rob

You mean Brian?

Feifei

Yes, he's very funny – 总给我们讲笑话，昨天他还在办公室给我表演用橙子玩杂耍 – he was very good.

Rob

Hmm, if you say so. He might be funny but I haven't seen him do much work – I think he's a bit of a wild card.

Feifei

A wild card? Brian 是“一张疯卡”？你的意思是他可能是红桃心，方片，黑桃或是梅花？什么呀？我不懂。

Rob

No, no, although the expression does come from playing cards – here, it means he is unpredictable, he's someone we don't know much about so we're not sure how he's going to behave in the future.

Feifei

Oh do you think so? 原来在英语里，我们可以用 a wild card 来描述一个我们不太了解的、行为不可测的、有未知数的人。这个表达现在也常备用在选秀比赛中用来描述“外卡选手”。Now you've said it, yes Rob, Brian is unpredictable!

Rob

OK. Let's hear some more examples of this phrase...

Examples

Jack is too much of a wild card to get a place on our team.

We're taking a gamble, she's a wild card, but let's hope she delivers what she promises.

The wild card in this competition is Chelsea: nobody really knows which way the score will go.

Rob

Right, have you got that? A wild card can describe someone who is unpredictable or who behaves in an unexpected way. But although Brian is a wild card, I wish he'd settle down and do some work instead of joking around all the time.

Feifei

老实说, 其实你也想像 Brian 这样生活吧?

Rob

Not at all – but Feifei what kind of card would you call me?

Feifei

Oh Rob, you're my favourite card – you're ACE!

Rob

Ace! Gosh Feifei, you're such a card!

Feifei

See you next time.

Both

Bye!