
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Pot luck

The logo for BBC Learning English, featuring the letters 'BBC' in a white box above the words 'LEARNING ENGLISH' in white capital letters, all on a teal background.

This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak, I'm Feifei...

Rob

...and hello, I'm Rob. Now Feifei, I've got a confession to make...

Feifei

OK, so what is this confession?

Rob

Well, I haven't chosen a piece of authentic real English to explain today.

Feifei

Oh. Do you have any choices?

Rob

Well here is the list of phrases... have a look, what do you think?

Feifei

Hmmm, let's see.... Shall we take 'pot luck'?

Rob

'Pot luck' – you mean pick one at random and see what happens?

Feifei

No, I mean let's pick 'pot luck' – look, it's there on your list.

Rob

Feifei you are a genius. You have just explained an authentic English phrase – job done.

Feifei

Don't sound so surprised!

Rob

Well our phrase is pot luck which describes a situation in which one must take a chance that whatever is available will prove to be good or acceptable.

Feifei

Yes, pot luck describes a situation that isn't planned or prepared, you just take a chance and hope that the result will be good or acceptable. Let's take pot luck Rob and hope these examples will show this phrase in action...

Examples

We didn't know which restaurant to eat at, so took pot luck and chose the one recommended in the guide book.

If you can't decide which book to pick, take pot luck, I'm sure they'll all be good to read.

I'm going to take pot luck, and I'm sure the course I choose will be the right one for me.

Feifei

So if you take pot luck at something, you take a chance that whatever is available will prove to be good or acceptable. It's a bit like presenting this programme with you Rob!

Rob

Not exactly Feifei – I am the only presenter available so you don't get any choice about who you present with – there is no luck involved.

Feifei

True – that's not pot luck, that's bad luck – is that on your list of phrases?

Rob

Let me look... no, but next time let's choose our English phrase before we come to the studio so we won't be taking pot luck anymore.

Feifei

Yes let's. See ya.

Rob

Bye.