BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak One good turn deserves another



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.

Feifei

Rob, thanks for giving me a lift home from the station tonight.

Rob

No problem Feifei. Happy to help... and look we're almost home... just turn this corner.

Feifei

Great - I would have got very wet walking home in this rain.

Rob

That's OK... but I was wondering if you could do something for *me* now?

Feifei

Oh! Rob, did you just give me a lift home so that I would do something for you?

Rob

Well... err... you know what they say... 'one good turn deserves another'.

Feifei

'One good turn deserves another'? Are we talking about driving? There's no need to 'turn another corner', we're already at my house.

Rob

No Feifei – I mean when someone does something to help you, you should do something helpful in return.

Feifei

Oh, is that right! We had better hear some more examples of this phrase...

Examples

A: Do you mind doing the washing up? I did do all the cooking and one good turn does deserve another!

B: Oh, OK then.

Please can you help me with my homework, I did yours last week and you know what they say: one good turn deserves another!

He helped me fix my car, so I was happy to let him borrow it if he needed to – one good turn deserves another.

Feifei

So one good turn deserves another – do someone a favour and they should return the favour. Hmm, I've been thinking Rob, you're right – you did me a kind favour and I should help you – so how can I help?

Rob

Well, if you're sure Feifei – I wondered if you could help me paint my house this weekend?

Feifei

Help you paint your house?

Rob

Not all of it – just the living room, the kitchen, the bathroom and the bedroom.

Feifei

That's not fair! Rob, I'm sure one good turn deserves another of equal value – giving me a lift home isn't the same as painting all you house!

Rob

Oh, so the answer is 'no' then?

Feifei

No! Bye.

Rob

Erm... bye. And you can walk next time!