

---

# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### A sticky situation



*NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript*

---

#### **Feifei**

Welcome to The English We Speak with me Feifei and... Rob... Rob?  
Where's Rob?

#### **Rob**

(Door opens) Oh hi Feifei... you couldn't lend me £10, could you?

#### **Feifei**

Rob! You're supposed to be presenting this programme. Anyway, what do you need £10 for? And what's that stuff all over your clothes?

#### **Rob**

Well, I was running to get to the studio and I bumped into a woman.

#### **Feifei**

Right... So, what do you need £10 for?

#### **Rob**

Well, you see, she dropped a big box she was carrying and said I would have to pay for the damage – and if I didn't, her daughter would be really upset!

#### **Feifei**

Oh! Rob, you are in 'a sticky situation'.

#### **Rob**

Well, that's true. You mean I'm in a situation that is difficult to get out of?

#### **Feifei**

Exactly! Rob, here's £10 - now you can go and un-stick the situation!

#### **Rob**

Thanks Feifei. I think we should hear some examples of this phrase while I go and pay the woman...

#### **Examples**

I'm in a sticky situation: I said I'd go to the cinema with Pete but I've also promised to go for a drink with John.

It was a sticky situation – neither side would agree on who caused the accident.

We're in a sticky situation – we've got to catch the train but we haven't got enough money to buy a ticket.

**Feifei**

So a sticky situation is a difficult, awkward or sensitive situation. (Door opens again) Ah, Rob, you're back...

**Rob**

...yes. She's happy now and is going back to the bakery again.

**Feifei**

The bakery? Why? What was in the box she was carrying?

**Rob**

It was a big birthday cake for her daughter.

**Feifei**

Oh no - you were in a sticky situation in more ways than one!

**Rob**

I suppose I was.

**Both**

Bye.