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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### Long

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*

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**Neil**

Hi Feifei, what are you up to?

**Feifei**

Hi Neil. Oh, I'm just... ironing a few clothes.

**Neil**

That's a big pile of clothes.

**Feifei**

I'm going on holiday! Everything has to be neat and clean.

**Neil**

You're even ironing your shorts!

**Feifei**

Nothing like perfectly ironed shorts.

**Neil**

Nah, that's **long**, Feifei!

**Feifei**

They're shorts – not long!

**Neil**

Haha – very funny. You know what I mean.

**Feifei**

**Long** is British street slang which we use to talk about a task which is boring and not really worth it.

**Neil**

Exactly. Ironing is **long**. It's dull and takes forever.

**Feifei**

That's because you do it all wrong. Here, let me show you, while we play these examples.

## Examples

I can't believe you're cleaning the whole house. That's **long**, bro. Come out and enjoy the sun.

A: Why don't you stick with your diet?

B: Dieting is **long**. I just eat what I want and go to the gym instead.

## Neil

You know, Feifei, you're right. Ironing isn't so bad.

## Feifei

Just you wait. You'll be ironing your socks before you know it.

## Neil

So, where are you off to on holiday?

## Feifei

I'm travelling around the world for five months!

## Neil

Wow, five months! That's long.

## Feifei

Aha – but do you mean **long** – as in boring?

## Neil

Of course not... Five months is a long holiday. Have a great trip!

## Feifei

You can do all my ironing when I get back.

## Neil

So long, Feifei. Bye!

## Feifei

Bye.