
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Fuddy-duddy

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

Rob

Hello, I'm Rob...

Feifei

... And I'm Feifei and this is The English We Speak. Hey, happy birthday for last week Rob.

Rob

Thanks Feifei, yes 21 years old – where has the time gone?

Feifei

Are you sure – you don't act like a 21-year-old.

Rob

What are you saying, Feifei?

Feifei

Well, errr, look at your clothes – they're not very trendy, they're a bit boring!

Rob

Boring?

Feifei

Yes... and come on, you're not very youthful.

Rob

Youthful?! Just because I haven't got any tattoos – who wants a tattoo anyway, they look silly, don't they? And they damage the skin as well....

Feifei

There you go – old fashioned attitudes – no way're you 21!

Rob

So you're saying I am a **fuddy-duddy**?

Feifei

A **fuddy-duddy** – that's an informal phrase to describe someone who is boring, dull and has old-fashioned attitudes. Let's hear some examples of this phrase.

Examples

Ling thinks I'm an old **fuddy-duddy** because I don't drive a flashy sports car.

My dad's a bit of a **fuddy-duddy** - he still listens to music on cassette tapes.

The bank has lost many customers over the years, probably due to its **fuddy-duddy** image.

Feifei

So a **fuddy-duddy** is someone who is old-fashioned and sometimes pompous. But Rob, being a **fuddy-duddy** isn't all bad.

Rob

Oh yes? Boring, old-fashioned – how can that be a good thing?

Feifei

Well, you make us all laugh.

Rob

Yes but for the wrong reasons – I'm off.

Feifei

Oh dear, it seems like a **fuddy-duddy** doesn't even have a sense of humour. Where are you going?

Rob

To get a tattoo done.

Feifei

It'll hurt. Bye!