
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Left, right, and centre



This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

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

Neil

And hello I'm Neil.

Feifei

Hey Neil, I couldn't help overhearing just now but Rob say he'd bought a new sports car?

Neil

Yes, a red one with one of those tops that folds back.

Feifei

It must have cost him a fortune!

Neil

Oh you know Rob – he spends money left, right and centre.

Feifei

You mean he spends it in all directions?

Neil

That's right.

Feifei

So he spends money in Oxford Street – to the left. Bond Street – to the right. And sometimes at Oxford Circus – in the centre?

Neil

I didn't mean physically on the left, right, and centre. It's a phrase that just means everywhere or all the time.

Feifei

Ah got it. I suppose left, right, and centre is everywhere – in all directions.

Neil

That's correct– and there are examples left, right, and centre – such as these...

Examples

I'm not surprised the cafe closed. It's been losing customers left and right over the past couple of years.

You can't miss that new film; they've been promoting it left, right, and centre.

Feifei

That's left, right, and centre – a phrase to mean everywhere or all the time. So how does Rob afford a new sports car?

Neil

Well our boss has been handing out bonuses left, right, and centre – he must have got a big one!

Feifei

The bonuses aren't that big. It's the bank – they're happy to give out loans left, right, and centre!

Neil

I think you may be right – anyway the good thing is he'll take us for a drive in his new car. And here he comes now...

Rob

Hi there. Jump in!

Neil/ Feifei

Bye for now.