
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Proof is in the pudding



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

Rob

Hello and welcome to *The English We Speak*. I am Rob.

Feifei

Hello everyone. I am Feifei.

Rob

Can you guess what I have brought for you to try?

Feifei

No, but I hope it's not one of those... errr, disgusting pies you always make.

Rob

Hey, come on Feifei have some faith in me. I know you like fried dumplings a lot, so I have made these pork and chive dumplings especially for you!

Feifei

Fried dumplings? They look more like burnt dumplings.

Rob

Just try one – I'm sure you'll like it.

Feifei

Rob, they just don't look that appetising.

Rob

Trust me Feifei, the proof is in the pudding.

Feifei

In the pudding? Aren't these supposed to be dumplings?

Rob

Yes, these are dumplings. But I used the phrase 'the proof is in the pudding' to mean you can only judge the quality of something after you've tried it or used it.

Feifei

I see. So 'the proof is in the pudding' is actually a real saying?

Rob

Yes, it is. In the old days, people used to say 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating' – which means you have to eat the pudding to know what's inside it.

Feifei

I like that saying. Although it does mean I've got to try your dumplings to know how bad they are.

Rob

Oh Feifei! Just give them a try – you won't be disappointed.

Feifei

OK, OK. I'll try some. But first, let's hear some examples of how to use the phrase 'the proof is in the pudding'.

INSERT

A: I don't believe this new flash washing machine can save water and energy.

B: But you haven't used it yet. The proof is the pudding.

A: This second-hand car does look a bit old – can you still drive it?

B: Well, why don't you test drive it? The proof is in the pudding.

A: Do you think this will work?

B: I don't know. But let's wait and see – the proof is in the pudding.

Rob

Remember, in English we use the saying 'the proof is in the pudding' to mean you can judge the value or the quality of something only after you have tried it, experienced it or used it.

Feifei

(Feifei munching away...) Mmmm, yes, yes...

Rob

So Feifei, do you like the dumplings?

Feifei

Yes, I do Rob. I really like the pork and chive filling.

Rob

I've finally made something you like!

Feifei

As you say Rob: "the proof is in the pudding"!

Rob

Thank you for listening to *The English We Speak*.

Feifei

And do check out our website bbclearningenglish.com for more useful phrases.

Rob

Bye.

Feifei

Bye bye.