
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

All over the shop



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This is not a word-for-word transcript

Neil

OK. Not again. Why oh why is Feifei late for the studio this time? Seriously... That does it. I'm gonna give her a call... Great. Let me go out and take a look. Feifei?! Feifei, where are you? Where has she gone? Oh, is that...? There she is!

Feifei

Oh, oh, hi, Neil.

Neil

Where have you been? I've been looking **all over the shop** for you!

Feifei

All over the shop? Well, I wasn't in a shop. I was in... the toilet!

Neil

Thanks for the information.

Feifei

And yes, before you tell me – I do know what **all over the shop** means. It means 'everywhere'.

Neil

Well, I'm just glad I've found you. Now we can finally start the programme and explain this expression: **all over the shop**. Oh, we've already done that.

Feifei

Yes. It usually means 'everywhere' – when describing a search for something, or an untidy arrangement of things. Like in these examples:

Examples

Where were you? We looked **all over the shop** for you.

He left his dirty washing **all over the shop**. Our house was a real mess!

I spilled wine **all over the shop** when I tried to open that bottle. Oops.

Feifei

It can also describe someone or something very disorganised. Listen to this:

Example

Sorry, I'm a bit **all over the shop** this morning. I forgot my ticket, my phone... I left my laptop at home. What's wrong with me?

Neil

So there you go. You can look **all over the shop** for something or someone.

Feifei

And you can also leave things **all over the shop** – like the dirty clothes.

Neil

And you yourself can also be **all over the shop** – describing someone who is forgetful or disorganised. Though not you, of course, Feifei.

Feifei

Never me.

Neil

And that is the expression for this programme. Thank you, Feifei... Feifei? Feifei? Where's she gone? Oh, a message. "Just off to the shops. Need anything?" Very funny. Bye!