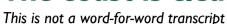
# **BBC LEARNING ENGLISH**

# The English We Speak The coast is clear





# Neil

Hello, I'm Neil...

# Feifei

... and I'm Feifei and this is The English We Speak.

#### Neil

So do you want a cup of coffee then, Feifei?

# Feifei

Yes, but you know the rules – no drinking coffee in the studio!

#### Neil

Well that is the rule but nobody's looking so maybe we could sneak two cups in?

#### Feifei

Sneak? Yes ok, you keep an eye out for the boss and I'll grab the coffee from the kitchen.

# Neil

...ok, the coast is clear!

# Feifei

Eh? The coast is clear - how do you know that? We're nowhere near the seaside.

# Neil

We don't need to be – it's just a saying. **The coast is clear** means it's safe to do something because nobody is watching – so we won't get caught.

#### Feifei

Ah, got you! So we're being a bit naughty, Neil?

# Neil

Yes, that's right – hopefully nobody will ever find out what we're doing! Let's hear some more examples of this phrase...

# **Examples**

I really wanted to know what my birthday present was, so when **the coast was clear**, I unwrapped it – I guess I've spoilt my surprise now!

The coast is clear so make a run for it before you get caught!

# Feifei

Ok – so that's **the coast is clear** which means it's safe to do something which isn't allowed while nobody is watching. Right Neil, is the coast still clear?

# Neil

Yes, but quick before someone comes. Quick... someone's coming!

# **Debbie**

Oh hello Feifei... are you making coffee for the team? Thanks - I'll take those from you shall I? You wouldn't want to be caught drinking those in the studio now, would you? You know the rules! See ya.

# Feifei

Err, see you later, Debbie. Oh dear Neil, it looks like the coast wasn't clear.

# Neil

I think we got away with it. Anyway, that's the end of the programme. What shall we do now?

# Feifei

Coffee?

# Neil

Yeah. Good idea, let's go.

# **Both**

Bye.