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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### Get somebody's goat



*This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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**Neil**

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak, I'm Neil and joining me is Feifei... and Fred my goat.

**Feifei**

Hi everyone. Neil, why have you brought this... goat into the studio? It smells.

**Neil**

Fred doesn't smell! I've brought my goat into the studio to teach our listeners an expression you can use when something annoys you.

**Feifei**

Well, having smelly animals in the studio annoys me.

**Neil**

Well, in that case, Feifei, you can say, 'Smelly animals in the studio get my goat.'

**Feifei**

To get somebody's goat – an expression you can use when something annoys you.

**Neil**

That's right. You can say something 'gets your goat' if it annoys you. You know what, Feifei? It gets my goat when people say my pet Fred is smelly.

**Feifei**

Ha! Here are some examples of people using the expression 'get somebody's goat'.

**Examples**

These queues at the post office really get my goat. I've been waiting for half an hour!

Argh, I don't believe it – I've got a parking ticket! Traffic wardens really get my goat!

These calls from people selling insurance get my goat. They've rung seven times already this morning.

**Neil**

To get somebody's goat – an expression you can use when something annoys you.

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**Feifei**

Notice that we often use 'really' with this expression. Train delays *really* get my goat.

**Neil**

It seems to me quite a lot of things get your goat, Feifei.

**Feifei**

Not really, Neil – apart from Fred.

**Neil**

Are you saying my goat gets your goat?

**Feifei**

Yes! Your goat *really* gets my goat!