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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### Don't give up the day job



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

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**Feifei**

Hello, this is The English We Speak, with me Feifei...

**Rob**

[singing badly] And me Rob. Hello!

**Feifei**

Err Rob, what is that terrible noise?

**Rob**

Noise? This is my best singing voice – I need it for my new job.

**Feifei**

You didn't tell me you were leaving the BBC and going to a new job.

**Rob**

I'm not – I've got a new part-time job in the evenings to earn a bit of extra cash [tries singing again].

**Feifei**

Hmm – and this second job involves singing, does it?

**Rob**

Yes, that's right. I'm going to be a cabaret singer in a nightclub. Good news isn't it?

**Feifei**

Well, Rob, don't give up the day job!

**Rob**

Oh – that's an expression which means someone's not very good at doing something and isn't likely ever to be successful at doing it.

**Feifei**

Yes – but it's used in a humorous and light-hearted way Rob. Sorry, I was trying to be nice.

**Rob**

OK. Well, I think we'd better hear some examples of this phrase in action while I continue to practice my singing [starts singing again].

**Feifei**

Oh no!

**Examples**

I wouldn't give up the day job - you're never going to be an actor!

Do you really want to be a writer? I've read your first book and my advice is 'don't give up the day job'!

Don't give up the day job Pete - you're never going to earn a living as a singer!

**Feifei**

So 'don't give up the day job' means you should continue doing your normal job, rather than trying to turn your hobby into a career. So Rob, have you got the message?

**Rob**

Oh yes, I should stick to what I'm good at – so I'll concentrate of doing the day job shall I?

**Feifei**

Yes, good idea.

**Rob**

OK, so why we don't we sing together and entertain our listeners [starts singing]?!

**Feifei**

Oh Rob, perhaps you should give up the *day* job as well.

**Rob**

Oh thanks.

**Both**

Bye!