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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### Potty



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

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**Helen**

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Helen and joining me today is Neil.

**Neil**

Hello everyone.

**Helen**

Neil, tell me about your first ever job.

**Neil**

I worked in a supermarket stacking shelves when I was sixteen.

**Helen**

How was it?

**Neil**

It was quite boring: just moving things from one place to another. But I was very happy when I got my first week's pay.

**Helen**

And how long did you stay in your first job?

**Neil**

Not very long: about three months during the summer holiday. If I had stayed there any longer, I would have gone potty.

**Helen**

What? Potty? Did you have to get permission to use the toilet?

**Neil**

Oh no, nothing like that. Nobody needed permission to go to the toilet.

**Helen**

Well, you said you would have gone potty. My baby son has to be reminded about his potty every day.

**Neil**

No, they are two very different things. If someone is potty or is going potty, that means they are crazy or going crazy. Here are a few examples:

**Examples**

My boss wants me to work on New Year's day for no extra money. He must be potty.

She's potty to sell off her car so cheaply.

**Neil**

There is another meaning to 'potty'. If someone is really keen on something we can use the phrase 'to be potty about something'. For example, I really like Japanese comic books, so I'm potty about them.

**Helen**

I see. I'm potty about miniature owls: I've got nearly one hundred of them at home.

**Neil**

Well, I am glad we cleared up the meaning of that. It wouldn't do us any good if people heard us arguing over potties.

**Helen**

Oh no. They'd think we've gone potty.

**Both**

Bye.