
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Old-school



This is not a word-for-word transcript

Sian

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak from BBC Learning English. I'm Sian.

Feifei

Hi everyone, I'm Feifei.

Sian

What on earth are you looking for Feifei? Why are you taking everything out of your bag?

Feifei

I'm just looking for a stamp – I know I've got one in here somewhere. I just can't seem to find it.

Sian

A stamp? What do you want a stamp for?

Feifei

I've written a letter to my family and I want to get it in the post before midday.

Sian

You've written a letter? That's a bit old-school isn't it?

Feifei

'Old-school'? Who are you calling 'old-school'? I'm younger than you!

Sian

Yeah but writing letters is quite old-school, you know – it's a bit old-fashioned. Most people just email or send instant messages nowadays.

Feifei

Yeah, but it's so nice to get a real letter in the post! So old-school basically describes something that's from an earlier time - something old-fashioned. Let's hear some examples:

Examples

Woah! That haircut is so old-school!

You want to go roller-skating tonight? Man, that's so old-school!

Our new teacher is a bit old-school in his approach, but he always gets good results.

Feifei

So 'old-school' is used as a bit of an insult, right?

Sian

No, it doesn't have to be. It can also be used as a compliment – to talk about something from the past that you admire. Or to describe something you feel nostalgic about.

Examples

I love your new coat – it's so old-school!

Look at these old-school computer games, aren't they awesome?!

Feifei

Exactly, I think it's a good thing to be old-school. If only I could find that stamp.

Sian

Why don't you just fax it?

Feifei

Well, that really would be old-school Sian. Get with the times!