
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

The best of both worlds



BBC
LEARNING
ENGLISH

This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak, with you Rob...

Rob

... and you, Feifei.

Feifei

Hey Rob, how are you enjoying your new life in the countryside?

Rob

It's great Feifei. When I get home at night, I get to smell the fresh air and look out on green fields. Yes, the country life is for me.

Feifei

But come on Rob, you must miss the bright light and the excitement of living in the city?

Rob

I get that by coming to work right here in the centre of London. I have a great night out and then slip off to the peace and quiet of the country. Perfect!

Feifei

Perfect? I don't think so – the countryside is too quiet. The city is the only place for me.

Rob

No way. I've got the best of both worlds - excitement in the city, relaxation in the country.

Feifei

The best of the both worlds – you think you get the advantages of two very different things at the same time.

Rob

Yes that's right. Let's hear some examples of the phrase 'the best of both worlds' in action...

Examples

Working part-time means I get the best of both worlds; time with the kids and a steady income.

Our hotel is by the beach and just a short train ride away from the city, so we get the best of both worlds.

We get the best of both worlds with our new car; excellent fuel efficiency and great acceleration and speed.

Feifei

So the phrase 'the best of both worlds' means you have the benefits of two different things and none of the disadvantages. But surely Rob there must be some negative things about living in the country?

Rob

Such as?

Feifei

No shops, no pubs or clubs, having a long commute to work every day.

Rob

I can cope – and anyway, commuting by train is fine – time to relax and shake off the stress of the city.

Feifei

Maybe not today Rob.

Rob

Why?

Feifei

My news feed says there's been a major signal failure – all trains to your village are cancelled!

Rob

Cancelled? Grrr. So I can't get home! Err, any chance I could sleep on your sofa tonight?

Feifei

Ha, so maybe it's not always possible to have the best of BOTH worlds Rob?

Rob

Maybe!

Feifei

Bye.

Rob
Bye.