
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Freegan

The logo for BBC Learning English, featuring the letters 'BBC' in a white box above the words 'LEARNING ENGLISH' in white capital letters, all on a teal background.

This is not a word-for-word transcript

Feifei

Hello again. I'm Feifei and this is The English We Speak.
and Rob's here too...

Rob

Yes I am. Hello. And I'm feeling a bit peckish.

Feifei

Peckish?

Rob

You know, a little bit hungry.

Feifei

Well when we've finished, you can go down to the canteen and buy yourself a bite to eat.

Rob

What?

Feifei

A bite to eat – a snack, a sandwich and a packet of crisps maybe. And can you get me something too please?

Rob

No I won't be doing that – not now that I'm a freegan. That means I don't pay for food - I only eat what's free.

Feifei

Right. So Rob, how do you get it – beg for it, steal it?

Rob

Of course not, Feifei. I just eat food that's been waste – maybe thrown away by supermarkets or restaurants. You know, I hate to see food being wasted.

Feifei

Me too. So a freegan eats food that has been wasted - maybe because it is out of date or too much has been made. Wow, Rob. This sounds like a good idea.

Rob

Yes it is. Let's hear from some other freegans in these examples – which are also free!

Examples

I'm trying to do my bit for the environment by reducing food that's thrown away – so I'm becoming a freegan.

My brother was so annoyed when he saw loads of food dumped in a bin at the back of the supermarket that he decided to collect it and give it to the homeless – I suppose you could call him a freegan.

Thrown away food isn't rubbish, it's free food! That's why I'm a freegan.

Feifei

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English and today Rob is telling us about being a freegan – that's someone who only eats food that has been wasted or thrown away.

Rob

And Feifei, freegans like me don't just eat free food, we give it to people who need it more than us.

Feifei

Rob, you've changed. Why are you now being so responsible and charitable?

Rob

I'm just a good person – oh and it's saved it me loads of money.

Feifei

Oh I get it. You're not being a good person – you're just being tight!

Rob

Tight – you mean not generous? Honestly!

Feifei

You're not a freegan – you are a freeloader. Someone who expects things for free without giving anything in return. Come on admit it Rob.

Rob

Erm, I'm just going to the canteen. What was it you wanted? Oh and could you lend me some money to buy something please?

Feifei
Bye Rob

Rob
Bye.