
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Phishing



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Rob

Delete! Delete! Delete!

Feifei

Rob? Why are you so annoyed? And what are you deleting.

Rob

Can't you see, Feifei? I'm checking and deleting my emails and ... all this phishing!

Feifei

I thought you liked fishing, Rob. You always show us pictures of all the big fish you've caught.

Rob

No. Fishing with an 'F' is good but phishing with a 'ph' is not!

Feifei

So you're deleting all the 'ph's? All the spelling mistakes?

Rob

It's not a spelling mistake. Phishing – with 'ph' - is one of those words that's become popular as we use the internet more and more. It's the name of a particular kind of fraud on the internet.

Feifei

Fraud?

Rob

Yes. It's what we say when someone sends you an email pretending to be a reputable company or person hoping you'll respond and give them your personal information. They want things like your bank account number, password, that kind of thing.

Feifei

Oh! So the email is a bait!

Rob

Yes, exactly. 'Phishing' with 'ph' is today's expression in The English We Speak. Let's hear some examples of how it's used.

Examples

Our bank never sends emails to clients asking them to reply to a message confirming their password. I'm afraid you've been a victim of phishing, sir.

I've just received an email informing me that I won the lottery. They want my bank details to deposit the prize. But I've never entered the lottery. This must be phishing!

Rob

So now you know what kind of phishing I was talking about!

Feifei

Yes. They wanted your bank details, but we're not taking their bait, are we?

Rob

No, we're not. Definitely not!

Feifei

Hmmm, I think I have some of these phishing emails in my inbox too.

Rob

So let's get rid of them all! Come on!

Both

Delete! Delete! Delete! Bye!

Rob

Delete!