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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### There's method to my madness



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

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**Li**

Hi everyone, I'm Li. Rob will be here in a few minutes but while I'm waiting for him I must try to find my Travelcard. I couldn't find it this morning. I hope I haven't lost it.

*(Sound of Li emptying her handbag... Then the door opens and Rob enters the room)*

**Rob**

Hi Li, sorry I'm late. *(Rob looks at Li)* Li, what are you doing? You've emptied your handbag all over the floor!

**Li**

Oh, hi Rob, I wasn't expecting you to be here so soon. Oh dear, this must look terrible, but believe me, there's method to my madness.

**Rob**

You've made a mess all over the floor and you're telling me you've gone mad!

**Li**

No, I haven't gone mad, well I hope not! The phrase 'there's method to my madness' means that although what I'm doing looks like madness I'm doing it deliberately; I have a reason for doing it.

**Rob**

I'm only joking Li. Of course I know this phrase. 'There's method to my madness' or you could say 'there's method in my madness', means you are doing something that looks strange but you have a plan and really, you are doing something very sensible.

**Li**

Yes, that's exactly right. I've emptied my handbag over the floor because it will be easier and quicker to find my Travelcard. Then I'll re-pack my handbag.

**Rob**

A good idea. That's the phrase for The English We Speak today. Let's hear some examples of how it's used.

## **Examples**

I'm driving to my friend's house today but I'm going to take the long route, avoiding the motorway. There's method to my madness, I think the motorway will be very busy and the longer route will be quicker.

A: What are you doing putting all the books on the floor?

B: There's method to my madness. I'm taking a photo of the books I'm putting away. The photos will help me locate the books more easily.

A: Oh, that's clever.

## **Rob**

So Li, have you found your Travelcard?

## **Li**

Yes, it must have been at the bottom of my handbag. You see, there was method to my madness.

## **Rob**

Well done Li. Well, I'm going now. I'll leave you to tidy up your mess!

## **Li**

Thanks Rob.

## **Rob**

Bye everyone!

## **Li**

Bye!