BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak La-la land

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This is not a word-for-word transcript

Rob

Hello, I'm Rob...

Feifei

... and I'm Feifei and this is The English We Speak.

Rob

Feifei, you've travelled all over the world but have you ever been to la-la land?

Feifei

Ha – you mean Los Angeles – the city of angels. It's an amazing place, full of film stars!

Rob

Sounds great and you're very clever – la-la land is the informal name for Los Angeles... but there is another la-la land.

Feifei

And where is this other la-la land?

Rob

It's usually in someone's head! Like our boss – he wants me to write all these scripts, edit them and make him a cup of tea – by the end of the day. He really is living in la-la land!

Feifei

Our boss is living in la-la land – but the last time I checked he was living in London!

Rob

Well Feifei, if someone is living in la-la land it can also mean they are in a fantasy world where they believe impossible things might happen – they are being unreasonable and not being realistic.

Feifei

Just like our boss.

Rob

Someone in la-la land doesn't really understand how things really are – take a listen to these examples...

Examples

She's clearly living in la-la land – how we ever afford to buy a house with the little money we earn?

My boyfriend's living in la-la land if he thinks I'm going sailing with him - I get seasick!

Feifei

That's la-la land – a phrase to describe someone who is unreasonable or out of touch with reality. I know the feeling – I've got lots of work to do too and I'm going on holiday tomorrow... I don't suppose you could help me?

Rob

Feifei you really are living in la-la land – I've told you I haven't got any time.

Feifei

Ah well, I just thought I'd ask.

Rob

Anyway, where are you off to on holiday this time?

Feifei

Can't you guess?

Rob

La-la land?