
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

A busman's holiday



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

So it should have been Neil presenting with you today but he's gone on holiday so you've got me instead.

Feifei

Yes I know – Neil's on holiday for two whole weeks!

Rob

Oh lucky Neil. Two weeks doing nothing - sitting on the beach in the sun, eating ice-cream. Wonderful!

Feifei

Oh Neil won't be sitting on any beaches. He's going to help teach English at a school in Spain.

Rob

What! He's gone to Spain to do the *same* work he does here – that's a bit of a busman's holiday.

Feifei

But his job isn't driving buses Rob.

Rob

No Feifei – a busman's holiday is a holiday where you do the same thing you do at work instead of just having a rest.

Feifei

I see. A busman's holiday is not about going on a bus. It's a strange choice for Neil isn't it Rob?

Rob

It is but he's not the only one – listen to these examples...

Examples

The taxi driver said he was going on a driving holiday around Europe – it sounds like a busman's holiday to me!

My mini-break turned into a bit of a busman's holiday when I had to use my plumbing skills to fix a leak in the hotel.

I decided to take a break from playing in the band and go on holiday but it turned into a busman's holiday when I ended up busking to raise enough money for my plane ticket home.

Feifei

So that's a busman's holiday, where you go on holiday to do the same or similar work that you do at home. If I went on holiday, doing my job would be the last thing I'd do.

Rob

Yes me too but think about what Neil actually does in his job...

Feifei

He drinks tea... sits around chatting... goes shopping...

Rob

Exactly – and he'll be doing the same in Spain.

Feifei

Now that sounds like my kind of busman's holiday! When can I go?

Rob

Let's finish the programme first.

Feifei

OK. Bye!

Rob

Bye.