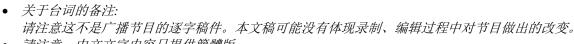
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH Authentic Real English 地道英语 Water off a duck's back 水过鸭背 耳旁风



• 請注意: 中文文字内容只提供簡體版

(Feifei and Finn are in the park feeding the ducks.)

Feifei

It's so nice to be here in the park, Finn.

Finn

Yes, it is Feifei. I love coming here and feeding the ducks.

Feifei

有时候来公园喂喂鸭子,放松放松,转移下注意力 take my mind off things, 真是件不错的事情。昨天和我婆婆 mother-in-law 又搞的小不愉快。

Finn

What was it about?

Feifei

嗨,还能有什么呢。She's always criticising everything I do. 好像我做什么都不对。昨晚 又因为做饭被批了一通。

Finn

Oh no! Don't take too much notice of it, Feifei. You know, my mother-in-law is just the same. But it's like water off a duck's back to me.

Feifei

A duck's back?!

Finn

Yes. Well, in English, the phrase 'water off a duck's back' means that criticisms or negative things have no effect on you. You know, they're just like water off a duck's back – we don't let them upset or affect us.

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Feifei

原来在英语里,我们可以用 water off a duck's back 这个表达来形容某人对他人的批评 毫无反映,像流到鸭背上的水,一滑而落。我们常在贬义句里见到这个短语,来描述 批评、劝导对一个人就是耳旁风、毫无作用。这个短语挺好玩儿的。

Finn

It is funny, isn't it? And it does make sense. Look at those ducks in the water...

Feifei

诶,真是这样的,你看这些鸭子背上的羽毛上有一层油脂,这样在入水时羽毛不会沾水。They have oily feathers and water can't get through them, so it doesn't affect them. I shouldn't let the criticism affect me and make me upset.

Finn

That's right. And the phrase 'water off a duck's back' is what we're teaching today in Authentic Real English. Let's listen to some examples of how it's used.

Examples

I won't give up on my singing career just because someone said I'm no good. Criticism is water off a duck's back to me!

I told John not to drive so fast but it was like water off a duck's back. Last week he crashed his new car. Thankfully nobody was hurt.

Finn

Feifei, which dish was it that you cooked that your mother-in-law didn't like? I'm making dinner tonight and I need a recipe ...

Feifei

我不能在这儿告诉你。

Finn

I'm intrigued. Why can't you tell me?

Feifei

I cooked Peking Duck. 你得准备煎饼、葱、一只肥鸭……

Finn

Oh, the ducks are not happy!

Feifei

所以我说不能在这儿告诉你嘛! Let's go, Finn. I can give you a good chicken recipe instead.

Finn

I'd like that. You know, my mother-in-law is coming for dinner too. Bye.

Feifei

Bye.