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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Authentic Real English 地道英语

### Water off a duck's back 水过鸭背 耳旁风



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(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.

**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.