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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Authentic Real English 地道英语

### Clean up your act 改邪归正

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#### Rob

Hello welcome to Authentic Real English from BBC Learning English. I'm Rob.

#### Feifei

Oh hello, 大家好。我是冯菲菲。

#### Rob

Err Feifei, what are you doing?

#### Feifei

Cleaning... this place is so dirty... in fact Rob, have you got any soap I could borrow?

#### Rob

Feifei, this isn't like you. You don't normally take cleaning so seriously.

#### Feifei

哎呀, 我也是没办法。老板说让打扫卫生 clean up my act, 我只能埋头苦干了。

#### Rob

Oh Feifei, you can put down that cloth – he didn't literally mean do the cleaning. He wants you to improve your behaviour or your performance. Have you not been working very hard?

#### Helen

Who me? I always work hard... although I have had a lot of things to do at home... and I did make a few mistakes last week... and when I get stressed I start to shout at people...

#### Rob

Oh yes, I did hear you. Well I'm sure I can help you clean up your act – if you're sure you know what that means?

#### Feifei

Yes. 原来在英语中, to clean up your act 这个表达和打扫卫生并没有关系, 它其实要表达的意思是让某人开始遵守规定或改掉坏习惯, 改邪归正。咱们来听几个例句。

## Examples

I used to drink a lot of alcohol but when I got ill, I decided to clean up my act and now I only drink cola!

He turned up late for work every day looking a real mess, so they told him to clean up his act or face losing his job.

## Feifei

那么也就是说我老板让我 clean up my act 并没有让我打扫卫生或者表演节目。

## Rob

No – acting here means behaviour – although your acting on this programme is excellent! So come on then, when are you going to start cleaning up your act?

## Feifei

Right now. 我从现在开始就全身心投入工作，认认真真的，争取一个错误都不犯。 Would you mind checking this script for Authentic Real English?

## Rob

Sure. Let's have a look... perfect! You can tell the boss you've started with a clean slate.

## Feifei

A clean slate 一块干净的石板 - what does *that* mean?

## Rob

I'll tell you another time. Oops, I've knocked my coffee over...

## Feifei

Oh dear Rob. It looks like you've got to clean up the studio. Do you need this cloth?

## Rob

Thanks!