
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Authentic Real English 地道英语



Keep a lid on it 给事情“盖上盖子”

- 关于台词的备注:
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Feifei

大家好，欢迎来到 BBC 英语教学的《地道英语》节目。我是冯菲菲。

Neil

And hello, I'm Neil. Phwa! What's that smell?

Feifei

Rob 自己做的饭。

Neil

Rob makes food?

Feifei

He does but it doesn't taste very nice.

Neil

Right. So why do you eat it – and why do you have to make the studio stink of it?

Feifei

Well, I don't want to offend him. 他总是带一些他自己做的饭给我，还让我给他一些诚实的反馈。我通常给他的反馈大多是 “It's interesting, unique, special.”。

Neil

Oh Feifei, you need to keep a lid on it.

Feifei

Well, if you think that will stop the smell, I will.

Neil

That's not what I meant, although it is a good idea. If you 'keep the lid on something' it means you keep it under control – to stop the situation getting worse.

Feifei

OK, Neil!

Neil

Here are some examples of this phrase in action.

Examples

I couldn't keep a lid on my feelings about the rota so I shouted at the boss!

With rising food prices, it's hard to keep a lid on how much I spend at the supermarket.

Feifei

这里是 BBC 英语教学的《地道英语》。刚刚我们一起学习的短语是“to keep a lid on something”，它的意思是“管理好局势，以防失控”。But this isn't the only meaning, is it?

Neil

No. If you keep a lid on something, it can also mean you keep something a secret. Like this...

Example

I've heard that Daisy is expecting a baby – but keep a lid on it until it's official!

Feifei

OK, Neil. You're telling me to keep a lid on things by telling Rob to stop giving me his homemade food?

Neil

Yes – unless his cooking is amazing.

Feifei

It's not.

Neil

Right, well, tell him you're on a diet or you've become vegan. That should stop him. And I will keep your little lie a secret.

Feifei

You mean, you'll keep a lid on it?

Neil

Exactly. But in the meantime, could you actually keep a lid on that box of food, please? It stinks!

Feifei

OK. Right, I'm off to speak to Rob. Bye.

Neil

Remember to be firm and say what you mean! Oh. Hi, Rob.

Rob

Hi, Neil. Feifei doesn't seem to want this delicious food I made. Would you like it?

Neil

Erm... Go on then. Looks lovely. Bye.