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Jiaying

大家好，欢迎收听 BBC 英语教学的“地道英语”节目，我是佳莹。

Neil

And hello, I'm Neil. Hey, Jiaying, we were all thinking about going to that new restaurant for lunch. Do you want to come?

Jiaying

No, thanks. I went the other day and once is enough.

Neil

Oh, you didn't enjoy it? Was the food bad?

Jiaying

It wasn't terrible, but it was a bit of a curate's egg!

Neil

What's that? The restaurant only sells eggs? That sounds a bit rubbish!

Jiaying

No, Neil. 我说的是“curate's egg”。我们用表达“curate's egg”来指“好坏参半、不好不坏的事物”。我们常用它来描述一样不好的事物，但这个事物也有可取之处，有“还凑合”的意思。

Neil

So when you said the restaurant was a curate's egg, you were saying it wasn't a great experience. What was wrong with it?

Jiaying

I'll tell you after we listen to some examples of this expression.

Examples

That new film is a curate's egg. Great action, but the story and acting were awful.

The day ended up being a bit of a curate's egg. It was nice to see my friends, but after the car broke down and I got wet in the rain, I wasn't happy.

I think her new novel is a curate's egg. It has moments of brilliance, but overall it felt a bit of a let-down.

Jiaying

你正在收听 BBC 英语教学的“地道英语”节目。我们正在介绍表达“curate's egg”。我们用它来表示一事物“好坏参半，还凑合”。Like when I said that restaurant was a curate's egg.

Neil

Yeah! What was wrong with it?

Jiaying

Well, for one – the food was a curate's egg. It tasted nice but the cooks were so slow that the food was cold! Then the waiters were nice, but they kept dropping things.

Neil

They sound a bit of a curate's egg as well.

Jiaying

Yes – and finally the decor. It was really vibrant and bright which was nice at first, but after a while, it gave me a real headache.

Neil

Sounds like the whole experience really was a bit of a curate's egg. I think I'll suggest somewhere different to the team.

Jiaying

Good idea! Bye, Neil.

Neil

Bye.