
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Authentic Real English 地道英语

At the drop of a hat 毫不犹豫地



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Feifei

大家好, 欢迎收听 BBC 英语教学的《地道英语》节目。我是冯菲菲。

Rob

And I'm Rob. So Feifei, have you got any holiday plans?

Feifei

Yes, I have actually. 我计划去澳大利亚三周。

Rob

Australia – wonderful. If I had the money, I'd go there at the drop of a hat.

Feifei

What? At the drop of a hat? “帽子掉了就去” ? Here, take my hat.

Rob

Your hat?

Feifei

Yes, you said you'd go at the drop of a hat, so here's my hat, now drop it – and then you can go.

Rob

I wish it was that simple. When I said at the drop of a hat I meant immediately. If I had enough money, I would go to Australia immediately – without delay.

Feifei

I see. 原来, 在英语里, 我们可以用短语 **at the drop of a hat** 来表示“毫不犹豫地, 不加思索地”, 也就是在做事的时候毫不迟疑。So in other words, you would go to Australia without hesitation.

Rob

Exactly. Let's hear some more examples.

Examples

My husband just can't stop spending. He buys clothes at the drop of a hat!

If I knew what to do next, I'd quit my job at the drop of a hat. Until then, I'll stay where I am.

My wife's expecting a baby so I might have to rush to the hospital at the drop of a hat.

Feifei

如果我们以“at the drop of a hat”的速度做一个决定，那么所突出表达的意思是“我们毫不犹豫地快速地做出了这个决定”。Well Rob, I'll send you a postcard when I get to Australia but it may take a while.

Rob

Why's that?

Feifei

Well, I'm going skiing in France first.

Rob

Oh, well that's somewhere where you really don't want to drop your hat – it'll be freezing!

Feifei

So you don't fancy coming with me then?

Rob

Skiing? No, that's something I wouldn't do at the drop of a hat. I'll have a think about it. But have fun.

Feifei

Thanks!

Both

Bye!