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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Authentic Real English 地道英语

### It won't wash 没有说服力

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**Neil**

Hello, I'm Neil.

**Feifei**

大家好, 我是冯菲菲。欢迎收听 BBC 英语教学的《地道英语》。

**Neil**

What's in that bag, Feifei?

**Feifei**

Oh this – it's a box of the best washing powder there is – Dazzlebright non-bio washing powder!

**Neil**

And why will I need that?

**Feifei**

Well, at the meeting earlier – when John suggested that we all wore suits to work – you said his idea 'won't wash' with the team – so here's some washing powder to help you make it wash.

**Neil**

It's a kind thought – but I won't need it. When I said 'it won't wash' I meant his idea is unconvincing and won't work.

**Feifei**

哦, 原来是这个意思。刚才开会的时候约翰提议大家每天都穿西装上班, 但尼尔说这个提议 “won't wash”, 所以我就拿了 washing powder “洗衣粉” 给他。

**Neil**

You see, this phrase originally referred to *fabrics* that were not good quality and wouldn't last long when they were washed. But now it's about someone's *idea* or suggestion not lasting very long because people won't believe it or accept it.

**Feifei**

所以现在 “it won't wash” 这个说法的意思就是 “某事没有说服力，站不住脚”，所以人们不会接受它。

**Neil**

Let's hear some examples.

**Examples**

Your excuses for not finishing your essay won't wash with me – you've missed your deadline and that's that.

The boss's idea to work an extra hour everyday won't wash with the team – they'll be furious.

Just saying you've got a cold won't wash with your fans – they've paid a lot of money to come and see you perform.

**Feifei**

表达 “it won't wash” 的意思就是 “it won't work”。一件事情经不起考验，没有说服力，站不住脚，那么我们就可以说 “it won't wash” 或 “it doesn't wash”。Neil，其实我知道这个说法的意思。

**Neil**

So why did you bring in the washing powder?

**Feifei**

Well I know how scruffy our team members are – and if we do have to start wearing suits, they'll all need a good wash. Erm, did you have curry last night?

**Neil**

Yeah – why do you ask?

**Feifei**

There's a big yellow stain on your jumper – just there. Here, why not test out use my Dazzlebright washing powder – 'it makes your old clothes look like new!'

**Neil**

Hmm, thanks.

**Both**

Bye.