
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Authentic Real English 地道英语

Wing it 即兴表演、发挥



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Neil

Hello and welcome to Authentic Real English. I'm Neil.

Feifei

大家好, 我是冯菲菲, 欢迎收听《地道英语》节目。

Neil

Feifei is here with me... Feifei, what's going on?

Feifei

Yes, and today we are here, with you, dear learners of the wonderful English language...

Neil

What are you looking for?

Feifei

The script. 我到底是把节目稿子放哪儿了?

Neil

Just wing it!

Feifei

Wing it “展开翅膀”? Oh OK. The air is fresh and I clap my wings.

Neil

What on earth are you talking about?

Feifei

你刚才不是说让我假装自己是鸟嘛? 还让我讲一个和鸟有关的故事, 我这不开始讲了吗。

Neil

No, that's not it. In English 'to wing' something means to improvise. The expression is thought to come from the theatre. It refers to performances given by actors who had to learn their lines quickly while waiting in the wings.

Feifei

哎呀，你不早说，我就纳闷你刚才都说的是哪儿跟哪儿啊。据说，**wing it** 最初是来源于演员们在舞台的一侧，边候场边背台词时的一个常用表达。**Wing** 这个词除了翅膀以外，还有“建筑侧面”的意思。不过如今，**wing it** 在用来表示“即兴发挥”的意思时是一个非正式表达，对吧？

Neil

That's right. Let's hear how this expression is used.

Examples

Mary spent all weekend partying instead of studying. When I asked her why she wasn't concerned about the exam, she told me she'd just wing it.

The minister is a great orator. He's never had a speech ready, he just wings it and people love it.

Neil

So a theatrical expression for you. Now Feifei, do you know lots of jokes about birds? Come on, tell me one.

Feifei

警察为什么逮捕了鸟？

Neil

Mmmm... no idea.

Feifei

Because it violated the laws of gravity.

Neil

What? Goodbye.

Feifei

Bye.