

“ Road Podcast ”
Quote... unquote



BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Quote... unquote

The logo for BBC Learning English, featuring the letters 'BBC' in white on a dark teal background, with the words 'LEARNING' and 'ENGLISH' stacked below it in white capital letters.

Jiaying

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Jiaying...

Neil

...and hello, I'm Neil. So, what English phrase shall we talk about today?

Jiaying

Well, Neil, earlier you said "quote 'leave it with me, I'll sort out a phrase' unquote."

Neil

Did I? I don't remember saying that.

Jiaying

Well, Neil, don't worry because I've already got one – quote... unquote.

'Quote' means to repeat the words that someone else has said or written.

Neil

Yes, and we use quotation marks before and after what someone has said when it's written down. So, when you *say* quote... unquote, it's like you are quoting what I said. You can use the phrase before you quote someone or around what they are saying.

Jiaying

Exactly, Neil. When we say ‘quote... unquote’ we are repeating what someone has said, sometimes because we don’t like or agree with it. I knew you wouldn’t find a phrase for us even though you said you would – that’s why I am quoting exactly what you said!

Neil

Hmmm. Well, don’t quote me, but I’m sure I said, “I’m too busy, I’ll leave it to you”.

Jiaying

Well, we have our phrase now, so let’s hear some examples of it being used...

Examples

She told me, quote, unquote “they’re just good friends” – but they look more than that to me!

You told me, quote “this car will last you a lifetime” unquote, but after a few months, it’s already broken down!

The company said, quote “staff will get a pay rise in August” unquote – but it’s September and we’re still waiting.

Jiaying

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English. We’re talking about the phrase ‘quote... unquote’ which people say when they are repeating something

someone has said, often when they don't agree with it. So, have you got it, Neil?

Neil

So, you're saying, quote, "I didn't do what I said I'd do" unquote?

Jiaying

Exactly – but that's a great use of the phrase.

Neil

Oh, thanks very much.

To quote a famous writer: "Using a phrase is better than finding one."

Jiaying

Oh, which famous writer said that?!

Neil

Me! I just wanted to get the word 'quote' in the script one more time.

Jiaying

Well done, Neil! It's time to go.

Neil

Bye.

Jiaying

Bye.

Road Podcast

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