

**“ Road Podcast ”**  
**Not feel/look too**  
**clever**



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BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Not feel/look too clever

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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 I'm Neil.

**Jiaying**

Oh, Neil, you don't sound too good.

**Neil**

I'm not, but I've got to keep going because I've been learning Spanish at an evening course, and I've got an exam tonight.

**Jiaying**

Oh dear – maybe you shouldn't do it. I have to admit you don't look too clever.

**Neil**

Well, that's not very encouraging – you're supposed to say 'good luck, you'll be great'. I have been studying it for a long time.

**Jiaying**

I *was* being sympathetic, Neil. 'Not looking or feeling too clever' means not looking or feeling very well – you look ill!

**Neil**

Oh, you didn't mean I am stupid!

## Jiaying

No – although I am beginning to wonder. I think you should take some medicine and go to bed while we listen to these examples.

## Neil

Maybe.

## Examples

I think you should go and see a doctor – you're not looking too clever.

I'm not feeling too clever today, so I think I'll take the day off.

She's not looking clever, so I suggest we send her home.

## Jiaying

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English and we're hearing about the expression 'not looking or feeling too clever'. It's an informal way of describing not looking or feeling ill. And Neil, as I said, you don't look clever....

## Neil

Actually, I don't really *feel* clever – or smart - either.

## Jiaying

I get it – is this an excuse *not* to do your Spanish exam?

## Neil

Ha ha – you're not stupid! Yes, I think the stress of doing this exam has made me ill.

**Jiaying**

Oh dear. Why don't you go and revise now, then you'll feel clever *and* look clever as well?

**Neil**

Maybe. See you later.

**Jiaying**

Bye. Good luck!

**Neil**

Gracias!

**Road Podcast**

don't stop learning even when you are on the road  
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