

“ Road Podcast ”
**Not a patch on
something**



BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

Not a patch on something



Jiaying

Hello, I'm Jiaying, and this is The English We Speak.

Neil

...and hello. I'm Neil. Are those new jeans, Jiaying?

Jiaying

Yes they are! Do you like them? I'm not so sure about them... They're not a patch on my old ones.

Neil

Well, I was going to say – you probably do need some patches. They're covered in holes!

Jiaying

The holes are supposed to be there, Neil. It's fashionable to have holes in your jeans these days.

Neil

Ah, right. So why are you talking about patches?

Jiaying

I was using our expression for this programme. If something 'isn't a patch on'

something else, it means it is nowhere near as good as the thing you first mentioned.

Neil

I see. So it's not connected to the word 'patch', which means a textile cover for something which is damaged?

Jiaying

That's right. I'm saying my old jeans were much better than these new ones. Let's hear some examples of this expression in action.

Examples

My new phone isn't a patch on the old one. The camera is rubbish.

I know some people disagree, but for me the Olympics isn't a patch on the World Cup. Football is way more exciting!

My holiday at home wasn't a patch on a trip abroad. Overseas travel is so much more fun.

Jiaying

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English and we're talking about the expression 'not a patch on something', which is used to say that one thing is not as good as another. Neil, what are you doing with that knife?

Neil

I'm just cutting some holes in my jeans – you know, to be more fashionable, like you.

Jiaying

That looks terrible – and if you're not careful you're going to cut yourself.

Neil

You're right, Jiaying. These types of holes in jeans are really not fashionable, are they?

Jiaying

No. In this case, I think you really do need some patches.

Neil Bye.

Jiaying

Bye.

Road Podcast

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