

**“ Road Podcast
Scrub up well ”**



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The English We Speak

Scrub up well

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Jiaying

This is The English We Speak with me,
Jiaying...

Neil

...and me, Neil. We've got that posh office
party to go to tonight – it's a black-tie
event.

Jiaying

Oh yes – a black-tie event means we have
to dress smartly. So, it's suits for the men
and dresses for us, women.

Neil

Ah, but I wonder which of us will look the smartest?

Jiaying

Hmm, I'm sure Roy looks very smart in a suit.

Neil

Maybe... but what about me? Don't you think I would scrub up well?

Jiaying

You mean to look very smart after making a lot of effort? I'm not sure but it's a good expression. When you 'scrub up well', it means you have made a lot of effort to

look very smart or well presented. Neil, do you own any smart clothes?

Neil

Of course I do – and so do the people in these examples...

Examples

He wears jeans most of the time, but he scrubbed up well for the party.

Sharon scrubs up well – did you see what she was wearing last night?

That's an impressive suit - you can scrub up well when you want to!

Jiaying

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English. We're talking about the expression 'scrub up well'. it's an informal way of saying to look very smart after making a lot of effort'. Hey, Neil – you've changed, haven't you?

Neil

How do I look?

Jiaying

Not bad.

Neil

But not 'scrubbed up'.

Jiaying

Well, if you could polish your shoes, brush your hair and...

Neil

...you mean make more effort?

Jiaying

To scrub up well involves putting in lots of effort... like Roy does.

Neil

I get the message. See you for the party later.

Jiaying

Bye, Neil!

Neil

Bye.

Road Podcast

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