Road Podcast

" **There's nothing to it** "

The English We Speak

There's nothing to it

Jiaying

This is The English We Speak with me, Jiaying…

Neil

…and me, Neil. Now Jiaying, could you remind me how to record our voices on this machine, please?

Jiaying

Sure – there's nothing to it. Open the microphone here…

Neil

[SILENCE]

Jiaying

No, this microphone! Then set the volume there… Open the computer screen here…. Click there and then click there and then, see that 'record' button? Just press that – there's nothing to it!

Neil

Jiaying, you keep saying 'there's nothing to it' – do you mean 'it's complicated'?!

Jiaying

No! It's the opposite. When we say 'there's nothing to it', we mean 'it's easy or simple to do'. So, Neil, there's really nothing

complicated about recording this programme. And if you press that button there, we can hear some examples.

Neil
This one?

Jiaying
No! This one.

Examples
Making the pancakes is easy – there's nothing to it – just add milk, eggs and flour.

There was nothing to it – all he had to do was collect the documents and deliver them to the office. Unfortunately, he got lost.

All you have to do it push this button and the coffee comes out here – there's really nothing to it.

Jiaying
This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English. We're talking about the phrase 'there's nothing to it' which means 'it's easy or simple to do'. So, Neil, have you got it now? Can we carry on now?

Neil
Yep, I think I've got it now – it's easy-peasy!

Jiaying
Good. So next time you can work the studio and record the programme?

Neil

Absolutely. There's nothing to it – just open that, click on that, press that…

Jiaying

No! Don't press that!

Neil Oh.

Jiaying

That was the 'delete' button. We'll have to start again now.

Neil

Sorry! OK, what does 'there's nothing to it' mean?

Jiaying

Bye, Neil!

Neil

Bye.

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