

**“ Road Podcast ”**  
**You shouldn't**  
**have**



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BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

**The English We Speak**  
**You shouldn't have**

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.

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**Jiaying**

Welcome to The English We Speak with  
me, Jiaying...

**Neil**

... and me, Neil.

**Jiaying**

You're looking very festive today – and  
what's that in that huge bag?

**Neil**

Well, as it's Christmas, I've bought you a present.

**Jiaying**

Oh, Neil, you shouldn't have!

**Neil**

*I shouldn't* have? Really? Well, I've still got the receipt, so I suppose I could return it.

**Jiaying**

No, no! Don't do that – I love presents – I just meant it's unexpected. When we're given a gift, we can say 'you shouldn't have' to express that it is unexpected, not necessary, but also appreciated. So, I was

being polite - I meant you didn't need to buy me a gift, but thanks anyway!

Neil

Right – so when you say, ‘you shouldn't have’ you really mean ‘you *should* have’?

Jiaying

No. It's just a way of saying ‘thank-you, what a nice surprise’. And now I have some examples for you.

Neil

Oh, you shouldn't have!

Examples

Thanks for my birthday present, but you really shouldn't have.

Flowers, for me?! You shouldn't have!

You've been so generous with your gift – you shouldn't have.

### **Jiaying**

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English and as it's Christmas, we're talking about the expression 'you shouldn't have.' We say it to express surprise and delight at being given a gift. And Neil has a surprise for me.

### **Neil**

Have I? Oh yes, it's in this bag.

### **Jiaying**

A huge bag – it must be a huge present.

**Neil**

Err, well, no – it's a small one, right at the bottom.... There you go – Happy Christmas!

**Jiaying**

Thanks Neil [UNWRAPS PRESENT]. Oh, a signed photo of you! Hmm, maybe this time – you really shouldn't have.

**Neil**

It's the thought that counts. Happy Christmas, Jiaying.

**Jiaying**

Happy Christmas,  
Neil.

# Road Podcast

don't stop learning even when you are on the road  
to join us, click on the link.