

“ **Road Podcast**  
**Clap back** ”



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## **Jiaying**

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Jiaying...

## **Neil**

...and hello, it's me, Neil.

## **Jiaying**

Neil – what's wrong? You look a little sad!

## **Neil**

Well, earlier, the owner the local coffee shop laughed at me! She said that my

purple suit made me look ridiculous – she said I looked like a big grape!

**Jiaying**

Well, I hope you clapped back.

**Neil**

I certainly did not! I just bought my coffee and left. Why would I clap her horrible comment? I don't want to applaud it!

**Jiaying**

No, Neil! I said 'clap back'. We use 'clap back' to mean reply or retort. So, if someone criticises you, you respond.

## Neil

Good point! I should have said that if she doesn't like my suit, I won't drink coffee from her shop ever again!

## Jiaying

Yes, you should have clapped back with that! – But now let's listen to these examples.

## Examples

When she said his sponge cake wasn't nice, he clapped back and said she made bad cups of tea.

Don't clap back at me! I wasn't trying to criticise you when I said you need to change your t-shirt!

She clapped back by telling him he was the worst driver in the world.

## **Jiaying**

You're listening to The English We Speak from BBC Learning English, and we're talking about the expression 'clap back' which means to defend yourself from someone's criticism.

## **Neil**

Yes! Like the other day when someone said they didn't like the music you were listening to, and you clapped back and said he had bad taste in music.

**Jiaying**

Haha – yes – I don't know why he said that  
– I was listening to it on my headphones!

**Neil**

Well, I have to say you do listen to the  
music pretty loudly – everyone can hear it  
– even on your headphones.

**Jiaying**

Are you criticising the loudness of my  
music?!

**Neil**

No!!! I would never criticise you – I don't  
want you to clap back!

**Jiaying**

Good! Anyway, I'm going to go and listen to some music. Bye Neil!

**Neil**

OK, I'll get some earplugs. Bye!

## Road Podcast

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