

“ Road Podcast ”
The plot thickens



BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The English We Speak

The plot thickens

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.

Jiaying

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

Neil

...and me, Neil. And I'm doing a bit of
detective work today?

Jiaying

Detective work! So, you're still searching
for information about the missing biscuits!
It's a bit of a mystery, isn't it?

Neil

Yes – I think a crime has been committed. Someone has stolen the office biscuit tin and we've nothing to eat.

Jiaying

So, Neil, when did this happen?

Neil

It disappeared from the kitchen yesterday. But this morning, the tin had been returned, and now it's empty!

Jiaying

Ah! The plot thickens.

Neil

There's no 'plot', Jiaying – this isn't a story or a play – it's real life – well, sort of.

Jiaying

I know. It's just a saying. When we say 'the plot thickens' we mean the situation has become more mysterious and more complicated. So, I mean the mystery of the missing biscuit tin has become more... mysterious.

Let's hear some more examples of this phrase, 'the plot thickens'...

Examples

Despite accusing him of stealing, it turns out he wasn't around when the crime was committed – the plot thickens!

The woman I saw him with at the theatre wasn't his wife – the plot thickens!

I thought he'd lost his job, but I still see him leave for work every morning – the plot thickens!

Jiaying

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English. We're talking about the phrase 'the plot thickens'. It's a light-hearted way of saying that a situation has become more mysterious or complicated. So, Neil, the biscuit tin is empty – isn't it clear what's happened?

Neil

Errr... somebody has eaten all the biscuits?

Jiaying

Yes!

Neil

Who would do such a thing!

Jiaying

Neil, I did see some biscuit crumbs on Rob's desk earlier.

Neil

Ah! The plot thickens.

Jiaying

I don't think it does, Neil. It's obvious who ate all the biscuits!

Neil

Rob! Right, I'm off to have a word with him.
Bye.

Jiaying

Bye, Neil.

Road Podcast

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