

BBC Learning English – Q & A of the Week 121

About this script

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Catch a Flick 看场电影

Feifei: Welcome to Question and Answer. 欢迎收听《你问我答》，我是冯菲菲。

Rob: And hello I'm Rob. It's time to answer another question.

Insert

*Hello, please can you explain what's the meaning of Bob's your uncle and go and catch a flick? I look forward to hearing your answer. Thank you very much.
Best regards, Jason, Chongqing, China*

Feifei: 来自重庆网友 Jason 给我们提出了这样的问题。他的问题是关于英语的两个表达，第一个是 **Bob's your uncle**. Even I have wondered why people say that.

Rob: This is an example of an English idiom. Bob is the shortened form of the name Robert.

Feifei: Bob 则是 Robert 的简称。Is Bob the same as Rob?

Rob: No, my name is short for Robin. Anyway, people sometimes say Bob's your uncle after giving an instruction, to imply it is straightforward or simple.

Feifei: 这是英语里的一个成语表达，意思就是易如反掌。That's all there is to it!

Rob: Yes, in fact that's what it means. That's all there is to it. Here's an example.

Insert

Just follow the road straight down there, then turn right and, Bob's your uncle, you're there.

Feifei: 我们用 **Bob's your uncle** 这个短语来表示某事很容易。That's simple Rob but who is Bob?

Rob: Well it's a bit of a mystery and there are several theories about the origin of this phrase. There's no time to explain them now so would you like to hear some other phrases that use people's names instead?



- Feifei:** OK. Is there one about Feifei?
- Rob:** Not that I know of. But have you heard this one: Every Tom, Dick and Harry?
- Feifei:** I haven't. 每个 Tom, Dick 还有 Harry? 这又是一个跟人名有关的短语。So what does that mean?
- Rob:** It refers to a common, ordinary or undistinguished person.
- Feifei:** 一个普通的、平常的、平庸的人。Not like us then!

Insert

We're having a party tonight but our flat is quite small so I wouldn't invite any Tom, Dick and Harry.

- Feifei:** 不准备邀请 Tom, Dick 和 Harry. So don't invite people you don't really know.
- Rob:** The names in this phrase probably originate from Shakespearian times.
- Feifei:** Really? I have to admit I don't know anyone called Tom, Dick or Harry.
- Rob:** How about Steven? There's another expression, even-stevens.
- Feifei:** Well, I do know a Stephen but I don't know that phrase.
- Rob:** You can say it to mean the scores between two people are equal. They are even. I don't think it's named after a Steven, it's just rhyming slang. Even and Steven.

Insert

Thanks for lending me that money Dad, but I've paid you back now so that means we're even-stevens. Is that OK?

- Feifei:** Even-stevens 这个表达可以用来形容两个人机会相等，事事平等。So I bought you a coffee yesterday, therefore if you buy me one today we'll be even-stevens?
- Rob:** Yes but I bought you one the day before yesterday.
- Feifei:** Hmm. Maybe we should move on to the second phrase in Jason's question?
- Rob:** Jason asked about the saying, go catch a flick.
- Feifei:** Jason 提问的第二个表达是 go catch a flick. So he's trying to catch something? A chicken maybe?
- Rob:** Not in this context. Catch is an informal way of saying let's go and see.
- Feifei:** Let's go and see, or catch, a flick. That's a film or a movie.

- Rob:** Yes, flick is slang for film. The word comes from the old days, when films were seen as flickering images on a screen.
- Feifei:** Flick 这个词有电影的意思, 那么如果说 to catch a flick, 意思就是去看场电影?
Rob, we've covered a lot of phrases today?
- Rob:** We have. I think it's time we went to catch a flick but I think we might be too late.
- Feifei:** No problem. I'll grab some food which we can eat on the bus and we'll be there in no time. Bob's your uncle!
- Rob:** OK and if you buy the popcorn this time, we'll be even-steven!
- Feifei:** Really?! 希望今天节目回答了 Jason 的问题。如果你在英语学习中碰到任何问题, 可以发邮件给我们到 questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk.
- Rob:** We look forward to hearing from you and don't forget you can catch all our English learning programmes on our website at bbcukchina.com
- Feifei:** And feel free to tell any Tom, Dick and Harry!
- Rob:** Bye.
- Feifei:** 感谢收听, 下次再会。