BBC Learning English – Q & A of the Week

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Too Expensive 太贵

Feifei: 大家好，欢迎收听《你问我答》，我是冯菲菲。

Rob: And hello, I'm Rob. Now Feifei, I think you're going to like today's question.

Feifei: Really, why?

Rob: It's all about shopping!

Feifei: 购物！Great! Let's read the question and get on with the shopping.

Insert

Hello. When you go shopping with a friend and you see something that is great but too expensive, what should I say without sounding like a sour grape? Thanks, Ka Wing Man.

Feifei: 这个问题提的很有意思。Ka Wing Man 在商店购物的时候，看到一样很喜欢的东西，但是太贵了 too expensive. 那在遇到这种情况的时候，应该说什么呢？ Rob, it's a common problem, what should she do?

Rob: How about not going shopping?!

Feifei: Not an option Rob. Us girls have to shop 女生都喜欢逛街购物，你说的方法行不通！

Rob: Well in that case, we need some useful phrases and don't forget, we don't want sound like a 'sour grape'!

Feifei: Ha Ha! Ka Wing Man 说她不想让自己听上去像一个"酸葡萄"。What does she mean?

Rob: That's when you make a false denial about something that cannot be acquired. Or you pretend disdain for something you want but cannot have. For example:

Insert

I didn't really want them anyway!
I wouldn't be seen dead wearing that anyway!

Feifei: 上面的这两个例子有种吃不到葡萄，就说葡萄酸的意思。如果用上面这两个例子来描述东西贵的话，那听上去就像一个"酸葡萄"。So our first lesson is that we need to be polite.

Rob: Correct. Now come on Feifei, grab your purse, we're going shopping.

Feifei: Great!

SHOP DOOR OPENS

Rob: So welcome to the QandA department store. There are so many wonderful things to buy.

Feifei: 你问我答百货公司 - it is an amazing place. Look at that beautiful dress. A great colour and good quality too.

Rob: Not quite my taste but if you like it, why not buy it?

Feifei: OK, I will! Excuse me, how much is this dress

Woman: Just two hundred and fifty pounds.

Feifei: What? Are you joking?!

Woman: The price isn't a joke madam.

Rob: *(whispering)* Feifei, remember 'sour grapes'. Try something a little more polite. Sorry, she meant to say it's not quite in her price range.

Feifei: That's right. Have you something a little cheaper?

Woman: Cheaper? Hmmm. Well, we have this dress in the sale. Just one hundred and ninety nine pounds.

Feifei: This is quite an expensive store! It's nice but not quite what I'm looking for.

Rob: That's better. But to save embarrassment why not suggest a price range?

Feifei: 我可以试着建议一个价格区间，这样可以避免店员推荐超出我能力接受范围的货品。OK, do you have anything for about twenty pounds?

Woman: Twenty pounds! Well I have a pair of pink socks for twenty five pounds.

Feifei: It's still a little out of my price range! (whispers) Rob, what do I say now?

Rob: You'll think about it.

Feifei:	Thanks but I'll think about it.
Woman:	Very well, you can have them for twenty.
Feifei:	Really? Oh thanks. There you go, twenty pounds. Come on Rob, let's go before she changes her mind. Bye.
Rob:	You got a discount there but did you really want some pink socks?
Feifei:	Not really but I didn't want to sound rude!
Rob:	You can always say 'no thank you'.
Feifei:	我不要了，谢谢。What were the other phrases we used?
Rob:	It's not in my price range.
Feifei:	这个价格稍微有点儿贵了。
Rob:	Have you got something cheaper?
Feifei:	有没有少便宜点儿的？
Rob:	It's not quite what I'm looking for.
Feifei:	这个跟我想买的样式还是不大一样。
Rob:	or, I'll think about it.
Feifei:	我再想想，我再去转一会儿。But Rob, there is an easy solution to this problem.
Rob:	What's that?
Feifei:	Use my credit card, 我的信用卡！
Rob:	That's not a good idea. My advice is if you can't afford it don't buy it.
Feifei:	Good advice. Rob 的建议就是如果价钱太贵，承担不起，那就不买。希望今天节目中学到的表达能对 Ka Wing Man 有所帮助。
Rob:	Yes I hope that was useful. If you have a question about the English language please email us at questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk
Feifei:	Rob, as a thank you for your help today, I've bought you a present.
Rob:	Oh thanks Feifei. What is it?
Feifei:	A pair of socks.
Rob:	Oh, thanks. Pink ones!
Both:	Bye!