
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Authentic Real English 地道英语

In black and white 白纸黑字



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ENGLISH

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Feifei

欢迎收听BBC英语教学制作的《地道英语》。大家好，我是冯菲菲。

Rob

...and me Rob. Hello. So Feifei have you heard the news?

Feifei

The news? What news?

Rob

We're all going to get a big pay rise!

Feifei

我们要涨工资? But Rob are you sure? I haven't heard anyone else talk about it.

Rob

Yes, yes, I'm sure. Look at this leaflet... it says that just there in black and white.

Feifei

In black and white? 黑白? 这明明是彩色的。But it's in colour – look, it says 'ten per cent' in red letters.

Rob

I don't mean it's printed in black and white – if someone says it's 'in black and white' they mean it's official – it's been printed or written down – so there's no dispute!

Feifei

In black and white 就是我们常说的“白纸黑字”，用来形容一件事情或一项决定被正式记录下来，已被认可或已成定局。这么说涨工资的事儿是真的了? So you're saying it's not gossip – it's true?

Rob

Yes, yes – I have proof on this piece of paper.

Feifei

OK, let me read it while we hear some more examples of this phrase...

Examples

I have it here in black and white – I've got the job!

I'm not going to start celebrating until I've seen the deal in black and white.

We didn't believe the bank's offer of a loan until we saw it in black and white.

Feifei

当一件事情被清清楚楚的用白纸黑字记录下来成为事实后，我们就可以说这件事情 in black and white。 But why in 'black and white' and not in 'red and blue' for example?

Rob

Well it comes from the early days of printing when news and information was printed in black ink on white paper. Once something was printed it was official.

Feifei

OK - but hold on Rob – I've read this leaflet and it doesn't say we're getting a 10% pay rise. 这张海报上没说我们工资会涨 10%，它说我们的工资“应该”涨 10% - it just says we deserve a 10% pay rise. So no pay rise for us Rob.

Rob

What? Are you sure?

Feifei

Yes – look, it says it there – at the top – in black and white!

Rob

Oh I didn't see that.

Feifei

It just shows you – even if something is in black and white – you need to be able to read first!

Rob

OK.

Both

Bye!