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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Authentic Real English 地道英语

### Take a back seat 退居二线

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#### Feifei

大家好, 欢迎收听《地道英语》节目。我是冯菲菲, 还有我的搭档 Rob。

#### Rob

Feifei, keep your eyes on the road! Look where you're going.

#### Feifei

OK, OK! Rob让我一边主持节目一边开车。Why exactly am I driving my car?

#### Rob

Well, I really wanted you to understand the phrase we're going to learn today. But I'm going to leave it all to you.

#### Feifei

诶, 活儿我都干了, 你干什么呢? So what are you going to do then?

#### Rob

Oh nothing. I'm just going to a take a back seat today. You carry on, I'll just watch.

#### Feifei

Take a back seat? 你今天退居二线, 让我来统管。So you're going to let me take control – do all the work – while you sit there and watch?

#### Rob

Yes – look, I'm just sitting here – on the back seat.

#### Feifei

Oh I get it! To take the back seat 是一个成语表达, 意思是退居次位, 让别人来处理大小事儿。

#### Rob

That's it Feifei. Let's hear from some other people who are 'taking a back seat'...

#### Examples

Mary was happy to take a back seat and let Jim run the meeting.

I'm going to take a back seat this year and let you decide where we go on holiday.

Now he's getting older he's decided to take a back seat in running the company.

**Feifei**

To take a back seat 的意思就是“退居二线”。Rob, does this mean you're just being lazy?

**Rob**

Of course not Feifei. It just means I'm letting you have a turn at being in charge – I trust you – although... What are you doing?!

**Feifei**

Letting you take a back seat while I show you how to really drive!

**Rob**

Feifei! Watch out for that roundabout... and that traffic light... aren't you driving a bit fast?

**Feifei**

Rob – don't be such a back seat driver!

**Rob**

A what?

**Feifei**

A back seat driver – someone who offers unwanted advice – someone who tells the driver how to drive. But we'll save that expression for another day!

**Rob**

OK OK – but you are going really fast – can I take the front seat now?

**Feifei**

Stay where you are!

**Both**

Bye.