

## Introduction

Do you ever make an amazing start on something? It could be a race, a project, or a presentation! We can tell you an English phrase to help you explain that.

## Transcript

### Jiaying

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak with me Jiaying...

### Neil

... and me, Neil.

### Jiaying

Have you started working on your act for this year's BBC Learning English's talent show?

### Neil

No, I've been too busy writing a presentation for you, and doing your shopping. Why are you asking me to do everything for you?

### Jiaying

Because you're so good at it! Plus, I need time to perfect my act for the talent show. I have made **a flying start**!

### Neil

What? For your act you're starting to learn how to fly?

### Jiaying

No, Neil. I didn't say I was starting to fly, I said **a flying start**. I'm actually learning how to juggle umbrellas. We use the expression **a flying start** to mean 'an excellent beginning'. We often use it to talk about competitions or races in which someone makes a strong or quick start.

### Neil

Oh, OK. Well done on making **a flying start** on your umbrella juggling act! I can't wait to see it!

### Jiaying

I've already juggled seven umbrellas! I'll show you my skills while we listen to these examples.

## Examples

Your son has made **a flying start** in the class. He's a brilliant student.

The athlete got off to **a flying start**. She set a record in the swimming event.

**A flying start** on a diet and losing a few kilos early on can really boost someone's confidence.

**Jiaying**

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English. We're talking about the expression **a flying start** which means a strong or good beginning. We often use it with the words 'have', 'make' or 'get off to'.

**Neil**

I can't believe you juggled all seven umbrellas. How long did it take you to learn?

**Jiaying**

About an hour. Like I said, I got off to **a flying start**.

**Neil**

You really did. That was amazing. I need a **flying start** for my act. I'm learning to say the alphabet backwards!

**Jiaying**

Well, good luck with that boring act.

**Neil**

Thanks.

**Jiaying**

Right! I need to go and train harder. I want to win this! Bye!

**Neil**

Bye.