

## Summary

Rob's late for work and has arrived out of breath. How could this be a wake-up call if his alarm went off on time? Feifei is on hand to offer him some useful advice and explain what a wake-up call really is. You can learn what it means too by watching The English We Speak.

## Transcript

### Feifei

Hello everyone. This is The English We Speak with me, Feifei... and... oh no, Rob is late again!

### Rob

...Sorry I'm late, I missed my train and I had to wait for the next one...

### Feifei

Are you OK, Rob? You're very breathless.

### Rob

Well, you would be if you had run to the station *and* from the station to the office.

### Feifei

Hmmm, it's not *that* far, Rob! I think this a wake-up call.

### Rob

A wake-up call? No, I set my alarm – I got out of bed – it just seems to take longer to walk to the station these days.

### Feifei

I didn't mean your alarm, Rob. 'A wake-up call' is a warning that you need to change your current situation before it gets any worse.

### Rob

And what is my 'current situation'?

### Feifei

You're unfit – you need to do some more exercise! Let's hear some examples of 'a wake-up call' shall we?

## Examples

Martha's bad test results were a wake-up call for her to work harder before her final exams.

The store's poor sales results are a wake-up call for the business to move with times and sell more fashionable clothes.

The recent extreme weather is a wake-up call for us all to do something about climate change.

**Feifei**

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English, and in this programme we're learning about the phrase 'a wake-up call', which means a warning to change your current situation and stop things from getting any worse. It's time to change - like Rob's fitness! So Rob, how are you going to change your current situation?

**Rob**

Well, that's easy – I'm going to get a later train. More time in bed!

**Feifei**

I wouldn't, Rob – otherwise you'll get another 'wake-up call'.

**Rob**

Who from?

**Feifei**

The boss – he hates people being late all the time. So if you're not punctual, you might get the sack!

**Rob**

Oh right, I'm off!

**Feifei**

Where are you going?

**Rob**

To do some exercise. Like you said, I need to get fit – quickly! Bye.

**Feifei**

Good luck, Rob.