

Summary

How will Neil cope with his first running race in the park? Feifei thinks he's going to walk until she realises he's just using another authentic English expression. It's one that means 'it will be easy'. Find out what is in this edition of The English We Speak.

Transcript

Feifei

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Feifei.

Neil

And I'm Neil. Hey thanks for joining me today, Feifei.

Feifei

No problem, Neil. I wanted to give you my support for your first run in the park.

Neil

Well, this run in the park is only five kilometres.

Feifei

I know, but you're not particularly fit and you haven't done much training.

Neil

Oh don't worry about that – this will be a walk in the park!

Feifei

Err Neil – I hope you're not thinking of walking around the park – this is a run, a run in the park!

Neil

I have no intention of walking – it's just an expression that means it's easy to do, especially compared to other activities.

Feifei

I'm glad to hear that because it's just about to start – let's hope you really do find it easy!

Neil

Don't worry, I will have finished by the time you hear these examples...

Examples

I've been studying for so long, this exam should be a walk in the park.

Oh don't worry about me, I've trekked in the Himalayas, this hill will be a walk in the park!

The job at the bank will be a walk in the park – you studied economics at university!

Feifei

You're listening to The English We Speak from BBC Learning English – and Neil has been using the phrase 'a walk in the park' to explain that a run in the park is easy, especially when compared to other activities – like running a full marathon, for example. But where is Neil now?

Neil

...here I am. Oh, that was hard.

Feifei

So that run wasn't a walk in the park then? That's a shame.

Neil

Why's that?

Feifei

Well, I thought that if running in the park was too easy, you could train for next year's London Marathon. It's over 42 kilometres - that would be *no* walk in the park.

Neil

Err, could we just park that idea, please?! I'm going to do another activity to keep fit and healthy.

Feifei

Oh yes, what's that?

Neil

Walking. In the park!

Feifei

Good idea. Bye!

Neil

Bye.