

## Summary

Saying you're disappointed has nothing to do with parrots so why does this phrase compare it to being as sick as a parrot? Are you as confused as Neil? Luckily, Jiaying can explain it in this episode of The English We Speak.

## Transcript

### Jiaying

Welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Jiaying...

### Neil

....and hello, I'm Neil. Jiaying, are you feeling OK today?

### Jiaying

Yes, I'm fine thanks. Why are you asking?

### Neil

Well, when we spoke yesterday you said you were 'as sick as a parrot'.

### Jiaying

I *wasn't* ill! When someone says they are as sick as a parrot they mean they are very disappointed about something. I was saying how disappointed I was with the outcome of the football match – my team lost!

### Neil

Oh I see – but why were you watching the football match with a sick parrot? I didn't know you had one.

### Jiaying

I haven't got one, Neil – but I was very disappointed.

### Neil

I'm sure – but I didn't know parrots liked football as well.

### Jiaying

Oh, Neil! Listen to these examples and will become clear.

## Examples

I was as sick as a parrot when I saw someone had scratched my new car!

He was as sick as a parrot when he saw how much litter had been left in the park.

When I heard my colleague got a promotion over me, I was as sick as a parrot.

### Jiaying

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English and we're hearing about the

phrase 'as sick as a parrot', which we can use when we are very disappointed about something. So, Neil, have you got it now – there are no parrots, it's just a saying.

**Neil**

Got it! No parrots.

**Jiaying**

Exactly – just great disappointment.

**Neil**

But I wonder how sick a parrot has to be in order to feel disappointment?

**Jiaying**

Let's not worry about it. The phrase has got nothing to do with sickness.

**Neil**

OK then. See you later.

**Jiaying**

Bye, Neil.