

Summary

Rob says if he had the money he'd go to Australia at the drop of hat. Always thoughtful, Feifei offers Rob her hat - but she soon discovers her hat won't even get him to the airport! Find out why in this programme.

Transcript

Feifei

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

Rob

And I'm Rob. So Feifei, have you got any holiday plans?

Feifei

Yes I have actually. Three weeks in Australia.

Rob

Australia – wonderful! If I had the money, I'd go there **at the drop of a hat**.

Feifei

What? **At the drop of a hat**? Here, take my hat.

Rob

Your hat?

Feifei

Yes, you said you'd go **at the drop of hat**, so here's my hat, now drop it – and then you can go.

Rob

I wish it was that simple. When I said **at the drop of a hat** I meant 'immediately'. If I had enough money, I would go to Australia immediately – without delay.

Feifei

I see. So in other words, you would go to Australia without hesitation.

Rob

Exactly. Let's hear some more examples...

Examples

My husband just can't stop spending - he buys clothes **at the drop of a hat**!

If I knew what to do next, I'd quit my job **at the drop of a hat**. Until then, I'll stay where I am.

My wife's expecting a baby so I might have to rush to the hospital **at the drop of a hat**.

Feifei

To do something **at a drop of a hat** means to do something immediately without even thinking about it. Well Rob, I'll send you a postcard when I get to Australia but it may take a while.

Rob

Why's that?

Feifei

Well I'm going skiing in France first.

Rob

Oh, well that's somewhere where you really don't want to drop your hat – it'll be freezing!

Feifei

So you don't fancy coming with me then?

Rob

Skiing? No, that's something I wouldn't do **at the drop of a hat**. I'll think about it. But have fun.

Feifei

Thanks.

Both

Bye!