

## Summary

Learn an English expression that involves bullets but isn't dangerous. This phrase describes situations where you have to do something unpleasant but can't be avoided, and Rob is about to do just that to illustrate this for you!

## Transcript

### Feifei

Hello! This is The English We Speak, I'm Feifei...

### Rob

...and I'm Rob.

### Feifei

We may sound a little different. That's because we are not able to record in our normal studios during the coronavirus outbreak. This programme comes with a safety warning! It involves bullets – well, not real ones. That would be dangerous. Toy bullets – just to illustrate the point.

### Rob

Bullets! What English expression mentions bullets?!

### Feifei

I will explain – and, Rob, you can help. Here is a toy bullet...

### Rob

Where did you get that from?!

### Feifei

Don't ask. Now, Rob, would you put it between your teeth please?

### Rob

What? Are you crazy?!

### Feifei

Please, Rob. It would really help our audience.

### Rob

OK, Feifei! Here goes... Right, I am biting the bullet.

### Feifei

So, Rob, you are being brave and forcing yourself to do something unpleasant, but *necessary*.

### Rob

I didn't force myself, you told me to do it!

**Feifei**

Sorry, Rob, I can't understand you – but when someone 'bites the bullet', they are forced to do, or accept that they have to do something difficult or unpleasant. Let's hear some examples of other people who have to bite the bullet...

**Examples**

I have a pile of work to finish, so I'm going to have to work all night – I guess I'll have to bite the bullet.

If I'm going to get fit, I'll have to bite the bullet and start going to the gym. Urghh!

If you want to start dating Jitka you're going to have to bite the bullet and ask her out!

**Feifei**

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English, and we're talking about the expression 'to bite the bullet'. It describes having to do something unpleasant or difficult, but necessary.

**Rob**

So, can I stop biting a bullet now, please?

**Feifei**

Not yet, Rob. What you are doing is 'necessary'.

**Rob**

Yes, but it's not easy speaking with a bullet in your mouth.

**Feifei**

Exactly! Peace and quiet. But careful, Rob. Don't swallow it – otherwise things could get very unpleasant.

**Rob**

Thanks for the advice, Feifei... ooops.

**Feifei**

Bye, Rob.

**Rob**

Bye.