

Summary

Feifei is worried that Neil's plumber has attacked him. He's certainly bled him dry, but why is there no need to go to hospital? Listen to this programme and all will become clear. You'll also learn the meaning of another strange English phrase.

Transcript

Feifei

Hello. I'm Feifei and this is The English We Speak.

Neil

And I'm... ouch... Neil.

Feifei

Oh, Neil, are you in pain?

Neil

Yeah. I cut my hand yesterday. Blood everywhere. Look at this cut!

Feifei

Yuk! That's horrible. So tell me how it happened.

Neil

Well, my shower has been leaking for ages. I'm not good at fixing things so I got this plumber in to fix it. I found his details on the internet – D. Odgy Plumbers – "Got a leak? We'll make you pay for it."

Feifei

Hmm. That doesn't sound like a very reputable plumber.

Neil

Well, he wasn't. He bled me dry!

Feifei

What? You mean he attacked you and that's how you cut your hand. Oh, Neil, you need to tell the police.

Neil

Don't panic, Feifei. He didn't touch me, but what he did do was a very bad job, he made lots of mess and then charged me lots of money for doing it – he basically charged me a whole month's salary – that's what I mean by 'bleeding me dry'.

Feifei

So you gave him the money - he didn't steal it?

Neil

Yeah - not exactly, but somehow he managed to extract all my money from me. Let's hear some examples, shall we?

Examples

My old car keeps breaking down. It's bleeding me dry!

John is taking legal action against the company. He wants to bleed them dry for all the pain he has suffered.

This divorce has bled me dry – I can't even afford to go on holiday now.

Feifei

This is The English We Speak from the BBC and we're finding out about the phrase 'to bleed someone dry', meaning to extract or drain all of someone's money. But Neil, why did you pay the plumber if he did such a bad job?

Neil

Well, he was a big guy and... well, I don't like to complain or make a fuss.

Feifei

Oh, how very English! But how did you cut your hand?

Neil

After he left, I tried to use the shower but I slipped over because of all the water.

Feifei

Oh, poor you. Shall we go for lunch and take your mind off things?

Neil

Sorry, Feifei. I can't afford it – the plumber bled me dry, remember!

Feifei

My treat!

Neil

Oh, come on. Let's go. See ya.

Feifei

Bye.