

# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### A you problem

*This is not a word-for-word transcript.*



#### Feifei

Hello and welcome to The English We Speak, where we explain phrases used by fluent English speakers so that you can use them too. I'm Feifei.

#### Phil

And I'm Phil. I'm in such a rush, Feifei. Can we do this quickly? I need to run home and pack. I'm going on holiday tomorrow, and I haven't packed anything yet, or worked out how to get to the airport, or got any travel money.

#### Feifei

You haven't done any of that? Phil, I'd help out but I think this is more of a you problem. You should have planned things better. But, let's record this programme properly and take the time it needs.

#### Phil

Well, at least you've given me an expression we can talk about – 'a you problem'. We say this to someone to say that their problem is something for them to sort out themselves.

#### Feifei

Yes, and often we use it to remind people when they complain about something that they could have avoided, like your rushed holiday preparations.

#### Phil

You're right – that is a me problem. I'll sort it. It's not something that's always rude to say, but it is quite informal. Another way we use it is to say that a problem is something that no one else thinks is important. You know how you don't like sitting on the left side of the studio, Feifei?

#### Feifei

That's right, I don't like it.

**Phil**

Well, I think that's a you problem, Feifei – no one else minds. Let's hear some other people using this expression.

**Examples**

- Beth, you look so tired.
- I am! I stayed up till 2 o'clock last night.
- Well, that's a you problem.
- Alright.

  

- Oh no! I've lost my ticket to tonight's concert.
- Well, that's a you problem. I'm going – you're going to have to buy a new one.

  

- I've been at the beach all day so now I haven't got any time to finish my work. Can you help me?
- Hmm, well, that's a you problem, really.

**Feifei**

We've been learning the expression 'a you problem' to mean this is a problem that you need to sort out or this is only a problem for you.

**Phil**

You'll often hear people say 'I think that's a you problem' or 'that sounds like a you problem'.

**Feifei**

Yes, so you needing more time to pack sounds like a you problem!

**Phil**

We need to stop here so we'll see you in the next programme.

**Feifei**

Goodbye.

**Phil**

Bye!