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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### Hard-nosed



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

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**Feifei**

Hello, welcome to The English We Speak, with me, Feifei.

**Rob**

And me, Rob. Now Feifei, would you call yourself hard-nosed?

**Feifei**

Oh here we go again – you're trying to insult me. Can we leave my nose out of the conversation please?

**Rob**

I was starting to compliment you.

**Feifei**

Go on... why is having a hard nose a compliment?

**Rob**

Not having a hard nose but being hard-nosed describes someone who is practical...

**Feifei**

OK.

**Rob**

...someone who is determined and tough-minded. That's you, isn't it?

**Feifei**

Hmmm maybe. Well, yes I suppose that could describe me.

**Rob**

I thought so. Let's hear some more examples of this word 'hard-nosed'....

**Examples**

She's a hard-nosed reporter - she got the scoop that none of the other TV channels managed to get.

When my son was ill I asked my boss for time off but he's so hard-nosed he said 'no'!

Our company is in financial trouble, we need a hard-nosed business person to come in and save us from closing.

**Feifei**

This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English and we're learning about the word 'hard-nosed', which describes someone who is practical, determined and tough-minded. But hold on, Rob...

**Rob**

Yes?

**Feifei**

I've been researching this word and understand that being hard-nosed also describes someone who is stubborn, unforgiving and insensitive! Erm, Rob, can we talk about this please?

**Rob**

I was trying to be nice!

**Feifei**

I don't care. I will not forgive you.

**Rob**

What about if I called you soft-nosed?

**Feifei**

No. From now on I'm only going to present with Neil. Now, I've got a pile of work to do so I'm off to write some scripts.

**Rob**

There you go – hard-nosed – practical, determined, stubborn and unforgiving.

**Feifei**

Goodbye!

**Rob**

What did I say?