
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Authentic Real English 地道英语

It takes two to tango 一个巴掌拍不响



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Neil

Hello and welcome to Authentic Real English, I'm Neil and joining me is Feifei...

Feifei

大家好。在本期《地道英语》节目里，我们要给大家介绍的这个表达挺有意思。它可以用来描述两个人同时处于一个困境，而且对于此困境的发生和存在两个人都有责任。Neil, what on earth are you doing?

Neil

Dancing!

Feifei

Yes, I can see that but... on your own. You look pretty ridiculous if you don't mind my saying.

Neil

Well, Feifei, that's because it takes two to tango!

Feifei

Yes it does take two to tango, 两个人才跳得成探戈，这也正是我们在本期节目里要学习的表达。

Neil

But the meaning's not as simple as you might think. Let's listen to some examples and then explain a little more.

Examples

The ref should have sent both players off. I know Smith kicked Cooper but it takes two to tango.

Everyone blames Charlie for their break up but Lizzy was just as bad. It takes two to tango.

They should arrest the dodgy agent as well as the manager. After all it takes two to tango.

Neil

So, as you can see, 'It takes two to tango' is used to talk about bad or difficult situations.

Feifei

我们通常用 **it takes two to tango** 来形容两个人同时处于一个不好的局面、困难的境地，好比汉语里常说的“一个巴掌拍不响，双方都有责任”。

Neil

So, Feifei, won't you join me for this dance?

Feifei

You're not exactly a great dancer, Neil. Though I have to admit, I'm pretty terrible too.

Neil

Who cares?! It takes two to tango!

Feifei

Argh! You stepped on my toes!

Neil

Sorry!

Both

Bye!