
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Authentic Real English 地道英语

Key worker 关键工作人员



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Feifei

欢迎收听 BBC 英语教学的“地道英语”节目。大家好，我是冯菲菲。

Roy

And I'm Roy!

Feifei

你这是在干什么？怎么这么多钥匙？ What is that noise?

Roy

Sorry, I was just cutting some keys! It turns out that I've been doing my job wrong all these years!

Feifei

Ah! I know what happened. Neil called you to say you're not a key worker, right?

Roy

Exactly! All this time at the BBC and I hadn't cut a single key! I'm lucky Neil was so forgiving. He had no idea what to say when I told him I'd start cutting keys.

Feifei

Neil 听了你的回答，不知道说什么，这一点我不惊讶。因为你理解错了“a key worker”的意思。“A key worker”指的是“给民众提供必要服务的关键工作人员”，比如，医生和护士。

Roy

Yep, that's more logical. I get confused sometimes.

Feifei

You do. Let's listen to these examples while you get rid of those keys.

Examples

My friends Jorge and Zdenka are both key workers! They do the amazing job of teaching kids.

Michiko is a key worker, but her class is closed at the moment due to the outbreak of the virus.

Key workers need to have easy access to their places of work during the coronavirus crisis.

Feifei

你正在收听的是 BBC英语教学的“地道英语”节目。以上，我们介绍了表达“key worker”的意思和用法。“Key worker”指的是“提供必要服务或扮演重要角色的关键工作人员”，比如老师、医生或护士。

Roy

That's right! 'Key' in this expression relates to 'vital' or 'important'. Not to keys that open locks.

Feifei

That's correct, Roy. And it's been quite a common expression during the coronavirus pandemic. People have been talking about the importance of key workers being able to do their jobs during a world crisis.

Roy

That's right. In fact, I could say it's been a key point of discussion. I really respect the amazing jobs that people like doctors, nurses, emergency service staff, and teachers do.

Feifei

Yes, me too. Err, one thing, though, Roy. How much did you spend on that key cutting machine?

Roy

Enough to say 'please don't tell my wife – she'll be really angry'. Do you want me to cut you a new key?

Feifei

No. I don't want to encourage you! Bye, Roy.

Roy

Bye!