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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 me, Roy. Rob sounds very stressed today. I think he's worried about his magic trick!

Feifei

What magic trick? I know he has a lot of work on this week.

Roy

When I spoke to him on the phone, he said that he had a lot of plates spinning.

Feifei

他这是在说他有很多事情要同时做。大家可能都看过杂技表演中的“转盘子”，表演者需要同时转动多个盘子，一个都不能停，同时一个盘子也不能掉下来。那么，表达“have a lot of plates spinning”就借用这个杂技来形容“某人要同时兼顾很多不同的事情，不能只专注一件事，而且要保证所有事情都运作顺畅，都不能搞砸”。

Roy

Ah... So, he was talking about work? Now I understand why he put the phone down when I started telling him about how many times I'd tried to find rabbits in my hats!

Feifei

Right. Let's listen to these examples.

Examples

As a single parent, I always have a lot of things to do at the same time. I always have a lot of plates spinning.

He's always busy. He's got so many hobbies and activities, and that's not including work. He has a lot of plates spinning.

She decided to quit her job due to the heavy workload. She always complained that she had a lot of plates spinning.

Feifei

你正在收听的是 BBC 英语教学的“地道英语”节目。以上，我们给大家介绍了如何使用“have a lot of plates spinning”来描述“某人要像转盘子杂技一样，同时兼顾多项工作”。

Roy

Yes, I've also heard the expression used as 'a lot of balls in the air'. You look quite busy today!

Feifei

I'm always busy Roy! I have so much work and I have a lot of balls in the air at the moment.

Roy

Maybe I can help you!

Feifei

Brilliant idea! In fact, I've already created you a list of things to do so I can focus on one task – the most important one!

Roy

Wow! There are so many things on this list! Now I have a lot of plates spinning. What task are you focussing on that's so important?

Feifei

My birthday party! Someone needs to arrange that!

Roy

You can't be serious!

Feifei

Of course I am! I wouldn't ask you to do that as well. Bye.

Roy

Bye.