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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Authentic Real English 地道英语

### “A thing” 的旧词新意

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#### Feifei

大家好，欢迎收听 BBC 英语教学的《地道英语》节目。我是冯菲菲。

#### Neil

And I'm Neil.

#### Feifei

Where's your beard?

#### Neil

Well, I, uh, shaved it off. I fancied a change. Beards are such a thing these days.

#### Feifei

Yup, ever since beards became a thing, I've found them a bit boring.

#### Neil

'A thing'. Of course, we know what the word 'thing' normally means, but what does 'a thing' mean here?

#### Feifei

本集节目中给大家介绍的表达是“a thing”。大家都知道 a thing 最常用的意思是“一件东西，一个物品”，而目前流行的说法是用“a thing”来表示“一个潮流，一种时尚”。比如：如果我们说“留胡须 is a thing”，那实际要表达的意思就是“留胡须很时尚，lots of people have them”。

#### Neil

Yes. Cats on the internet – they're a thing.

#### Feifei

Oh, fidget spinners. They're definitely a thing.

#### Neil

Fidget spinners?

**Feifei**

对，就是那个风靡全球的“fidget spinners 指尖陀螺”。Those little metal or plastic toys that you spin on your finger. Know them?

**Neil**

Oh, those things that kids everywhere are playing with.

**Feifei**

Not just kids. Anyway. What else is a thing? Listen to these examples.

**Examples**

Using funny GIFs in your message is such a thing.

You know parkour: the sport of running and jumping across buildings? Why is that such a thing?

Organic powdered food. Since when has that been a thing?

**Feifei**

A well-known use of this phrase was after American personality Kim Kardashian posted a picture of herself pregnant, with the words “pregnancy lips 怀孕的嘴唇”.

**Neil**

It's a term not many people had heard of, and prompted responses like this: “Pregnancy lips? Is that even a thing?”

**Feifei**

当你对别人所描述的一件事情一无所知，或对所描述的事情持怀疑态度的时候，你就可以说 “Is that a thing?” 或 “Is that even a thing?” 。

**Neil**

But there's little doubt the phrase ‘a thing’ is itself ‘a thing’ – it's now been included in major dictionaries.

**Feifei**

There we are. A thing. No plans to grow the beard back, then?

**Neil**

Only when being clean-shaven becomes too much of a thing!

**Feifei**

Bye.

**Neil**  
Bye.