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Neil

Hello, I'm Neil.

Feifei

大家好，我是冯菲菲。欢迎收听 BBC 英语教学的《地道英语》节目。

Neil

Now Feifei, here's a question for you. If you had some news what would you do?

Feifei

如果我有什么新消息，会怎么办？我当然是要告诉别人吧！I would tell someone of course.

Neil

Yes but some good news, some amazing, incredible news about yourself – like for example, I'm having a baby.

Feifei

Neil's having a baby! Are you really?

Neil

No, of course not – but if you had exciting news like that, how would you tell people?

Feifei

Hmm, I'd use social media... tell all my friends... tell everyone in the office...我要是有什么喜事，肯定会和大家一起分享的！I would shout about it – but not literally.

Neil

Exactly! Which is why, in English, we say we would 'shout it from the rooftops' which means we would share some information publicly – so everyone knows.

Feifei

是的，在英语里，我们用“to shout something from the rooftops 从房顶喊话”来描述公开对外宣布一个消息，从而让所有人都知道。I guess this is how people shared important news before TV, radio and the internet had been invented.

Neil

Exactly. They would climb up somewhere high and shout it out! Let's hear some examples.

Examples

Congratulations for getting a first in your degree, you should go and shout it from the rooftops!

I know you won the lottery but don't shout it from the rooftops; otherwise everyone will be after your money!

We all know Ming is in love with Jiyuen, he's been shouting it from the rooftops!

Feifei

短语“to shout something from the rooftops”的意思就是“与众人公开谈论、宣布一个好消息”。Hold on a minute Neil, I do have some good news...I am getting a pay rise!

Neil

Sorry, what did you say?

Feifei

我涨工资了！

Neil

OK, no need to shout. Feifei, be careful, there are some things you don't want to shout from the rooftops – that news will just upset some people.

Feifei

Like who?

Neil

Like me. I didn't get one. But congratulations anyway.

Feifei

Bye.

Neil

Bye.