
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Authentic Real English 道地英語

Thereby hangs a tale

說來話長



- *關於臺詞的備註:*
這不是廣播節目的逐字稿件。本文稿可能沒有體現錄製、編輯過程中對節目做出的改變。

Feifei

Hello! 大家好。Welcome to Authentic Real English from BBC Learning English. 我是馮菲菲。

Neil

... and hello, I'm Neil. Err, sorry to mention it, Feifei, but why is there a big coffee stain on your top?

Feifei

Because I spilt coffee all over me!

Neil

Oh, that was silly... and did I notice when you arrived that you were limping?

Feifei

哎，別提了! Thereby hangs a tale.

Neil

What? Did you trip over a tail?

Feifei

No, no. I mean there's more to tell you. 在英語裡，表達“thereby hangs a tale”的意思是“說來話長，其中大有文章”。當別人問的問題需要一個很長的解釋時，我們就可以用“thereby hangs a tale”來告訴他們你的回答會很長，因為有很多要解釋的東西。“Thereby hangs a tale”這個表達出自莎士比亞的喜劇《皆大歡喜》。Now, let me explain why I have a coffee stain and a limp.

Neil

If it involves me, then no!

Feifei

It does.

Neil

Oh, well. Shall we have some examples of 'thereby hangs a tale'?

Examples

A: Why are you covered in mud?

B: Well, thereby hangs a tale.

I won that medal for bravery – and thereby hangs a tale.

What a journey! All the main roads were closed so we had to drive cross-country – and thereby hangs a tale.

Feifei

你正在收聽的是 BBC 英語教學的“道地英語”節目。這期節目中，我們給大家介紹如何用表達“thereby hangs a tale”來告訴別人一個問題的回答有一個很長的解釋，也就是我們常說的“說來話長”。Neil, can you guess what's happened?

Neil

Hmm, so you have a limp, and you have a coffee stain on your top – were you dancing with a full cup of coffee?

Feifei

I wasn't. In fact, I was walking to the studio, carefully carrying my coffee, when I tripped over a bag of potatoes in the corridor.

Neil

Ah, that's my bag of potatoes!

Feifei

I thought so, but why is there a bag of potatoes in the corridor?

Neil

Ah, well, thereby hangs a tale!

Feifei

I'm all ears.

Neil

I'll tell you later. It's time to go now. Bye.

Feifei

Bye!