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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The English We Speak

### Take for a ride



*NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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**Rob**

Hello Li. What a nice handbag. Is it new?

**Li**

Thank you, Rob. Yes. I bought in a designer shop. It was very expensive but it doesn't matter. Soon I will be able to afford ten like this one!

**Rob**

What do you mean?

**Li**

This afternoon I'm going to meet a financial adviser. He has promised to make me rich!

**Rob**

And how is he going to do that?

**Li**

He said there's this new company which is very high-tech and they are developing a car which uses only fresh air for fuel!

**Rob**

Air?!

**Li**

Yes. Isn't that brilliant?!

**Rob**

Li, do you know this guy very well?

**Li**

No. But he has also advised my neighbour to buy shares in this company.

**Rob**

Li, this guy is taking you and your neighbour for a ride!

**Li**

I hope so. A ride in this wonderful car powered by air...

**Rob**

No, no, no. I don't mean that. In English, when we say someone is 'taking you for a ride', we mean he is deceiving you. This company might not even exist – and I'm sure the car is just a fantasy...

**Li**

Oh! He's just after my money?!

**Rob**

I'm afraid so. **Take for a ride** is today's expression in *The English We Speak*. Here are some examples of how it's used.

### Examples

That hotel **took me for a ride**. When I booked a room they said they'd give me a full cooked breakfast but all I got was a cup of coffee and a piece of toast. I'm never going back there again.

Don't **be taken for a ride**. If an offer seems too good to be true, it's probably not real.

**Li**

Oh, Rob. Thank you very much for warning me.

**Rob**

You're welcome, Li.

**Li**

Well, talking about rides... when you say it as a normal sentence, the phrase 'take someone for a ride' or 'to give someone a ride' can also mean 'to take someone somewhere as a passenger in your car', can't it?

**Rob**

Yes, it can – especially in American English. The meaning can be literal, or idiomatic: it's all about the context.

**Li**

Well, this time I'm not using it as an idiom but speaking as an American. Can you give me a ride home in your car?

**Rob**

Sure thing, Li. It will be a pleasure to have you riding in my car. No idiom. And my car is powered by more than just fresh air.

**Li**

Thank you, Rob. I'll try to be more suspicious of things which sound too good to be true.

**Rob**

That's good. Okay. Li, come on. Jump in.

**Li**

Bye.

**Rob**

Bye.