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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Authentic Real English 地道英语

### To make a monkey out of me 捉弄我

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**Li**

大家好欢迎收听《地道英语》我是杨莉...

**Rob**

And hello, I'm Rob

**Li**

Sorry, I didn't hear that.

**Rob**

If I just take this head off... you can hear me. Hello!

**Li**

That's better but why are you wearing a life-size monkey costume Rob?

**Rob**

Well my friend said I should wear it to his son's birthday party this morning – his son loves monkeys and it would make his birthday really special if he saw one!

**Li**

原来 Rob 的一个朋友为儿子举办聚会，他让 Rob 装扮成一只猴子去凑热闹。  
Well, that's very kind of you Rob – and how did the party go?

**Rob**

Well that's the problem. As you can see, I dressed up like a monkey, travelled across London on the bus and there was no party!

**Li**

Ha ha – no party! 听上去你好像是被朋友当猴子一样给耍啦！这叫 'making a monkey out of you'!

**Rob**

Making a monkey out of me? Yes, it's a good phrase. You mean he's trying to make me look foolish or to humiliate me.

**Li**

He's certainly done that! 短语 'to make a monkey out of someone' 意思就是愚弄某人，让某人出洋相，也就是我们常说的被人耍（猴）啦！下面我们听几个例句：

**Examples**

Mary made a monkey out of me by telling me to ask her best friend out on a date – she said no!

My boyfriend's always making a monkey out of himself by getting drunk at parties.

Sid made a monkey out of Paul by telling him to wear a suit to the party – everyone else was wearing jeans!

**Li**

这个词的意思很清楚了。不过，愚弄别人或被别人愚弄都不是好事儿。我记得，好像还有一个类似的表达， 'making a fool out of someone'. So Rob, you're angry because he's made a fool out of you?

**Rob**

Yes! This phrase doesn't just apply to people who dress up like monkeys. It can apply to any situation where someone has been made to look foolish or ridiculous – like me!

**Li**

是的，这个表达的使用面儿更宽一些，而不仅仅限于装扮猴子式的捉弄或取笑。

**Rob**

But Li, this phrase compares someone to a monkey because monkeys look like they are fooling around. And that makes me look really stupid!

**Li**

Rob 越说越觉得自己像个傻猴子，可猴子一点儿都不傻呀！ Ah but Rob, in Chinese culture, a monkey is seen as a clever animal and is often compared with a clever person.

**Rob**

Oh really? Well, in that case I might wear this monkey costume for a little bit longer. How does it make me look? Clever, smart?

**Li**

Quite smart and quite handsome too.

**Rob**

Oh thanks very much!

**Li**

Bye.

**Rob**

Bye.