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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Authentic Real English 地道英语

### To be fair 说句公道话

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#### Neil

Welcome to Authentic Real English: I'm Neil.

#### Feifei

大家好，我是冯菲菲。

#### Neil

You know what, Feifei, I just love living here in London. I mean, the culture, the parks, the restaurants – it's got everything.

#### Feifei

Yeah, it's not bad, though to be fair it's not the cheapest place to live.

#### Neil

You're right. Though most world capital cities are quite pricey to live in, to be fair.

#### Feifei

Actually, to be fair, I think there are a lot of reasons to move out of the big city – you know, more space, better air, fewer people, and... nature!

#### Neil

Feifei... I think we've given good arguments on both sides, to be fair! And I hope we've demonstrated today's phrase – which is: to be fair.

#### Feifei

希望大家通过我们上面的对话了解了 **to be fair** 这个说法。**To be fair** 在英式英语里使用的频率很高。当你要解释一个问题的多个方面时，你就可以用 **to be fair**。我们来听几个例句。

#### Examples

We played well in the first half, but to be fair we were awful in the second half.

Now, Luke. We know that wasn't your best exam result, but to be fair you had very little time to prepare.

**Neil**

So – it's a phrase that we use to give balance in a discussion. And it comes just before or just after making a point, or giving an opinion.

**Feifei**

But these days, especially in spoken English, people sometimes just use it when giving an opinion – whether or not it's really about fairness.

**Neil**

Yes, for example: To be fair, The Beatles were the best band of all time.

**Feifei**

I think Italian food is the finest there is, to be fair. 在日常对话中，要注意区分 to be fair 实际所表达的含义，你会发现人们经常把它当作一个填补说话空白的小词，而不是总用它表达任何实际的意思。

**Neil**

To be fair, that's why we make these programmes – to help people understand real English.

**Feifei**

And they are some of the best English learning materials available, to be fair.

**Neil**

Though, to be fair, other programmes are available!

**Feifei**

Bye for now.

**Neil**

Goodbye.