

## The English We Speak: Have a pop at

BBC Learning English, Episode 180723 / 23 Jul 2018,  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/the-english-we-speak/ep-180723>



**Task 1:** Read through all the tasks first. Then listen to Rob and Feifei talking about the English idiom 'have a pop at' and complete the tasks.

1. What is Feifei's problem? Look at the **notes** below and add **one word**.

- trouble with .....
- script won't .....
- can't ..... it out

2. Finish the sentences below. Use no more than 3 words.

- Feifei asks Rob to .....
- Feifei thinks 'have a pop at it' means make the computer .....

3. Take notes on the two different meanings.

- "Have a pop at something": .....
- "Have a pop at someone": .....

4. Fill in the missing words in the example sentences that were mentioned.

- I'm going to have a pop at doing this online application for ..... – apparently it's really easy.
- We had a pop at .....but we baked it for too long and it burnt!
- Why not have a pop at yoga? I've heard it's good for your .....

5. Was Rob's pop at trying to fix Feifei's computer successful? Answer the question.

.....

**Speaking:** What kind of hobbies or activities would you like to **have a pop at** in the near future? Why? If you have no idea, pick any of the activities listed below!

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Make a TikTok video.                       | • Take part in a dance flash mob.                       |
| • Volunteer at the local animal shelter.     | • Go kayaking or stand-up paddling.                     |
| • Go camping in the wilderness.              | • Spend a day thrift shopping. (= in second-hand shops) |
| • Watch a movie in a drive-in movie theatre. | • Get a new and different haircut.                      |
| • Start your own YouTube channel.            | • Do a summer job and earn some extra pocket money.     |

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**Task 1:** Read through all the tasks first. Then listen to Rob and Feifei talking about the English idiom 'have a pop at' and complete the tasks.

1. What is Feifei's problem? Look at the notes below and add one word.

- trouble with .....*computer*....
- script won't .....*save*....
- can't .....*print*....it out

2. Finish the sentences below. Use no more than 3 words.

- Feifei asks Rob to .....*fix it*....
- Feifei thinks 'have a pop at it' means make the computer .....*explode*....

3. Take notes on the two different meanings.

- have a pop at something: ... *try and do sth.* ....
- have a pop at someone: ... *criticise or try and hit someone*....

4. Fill in the missing words in the example sentences that were mentioned.

- I'm going to have a pop at doing this for ..... *a passport* ..... – apparently it's really easy.
- We had a pop at .....*making a cake*.... but we baked it for too long and it burnt!
- Why not have a pop at yoga? I've heard it's good for your .....*mind, body and soul*.....

5. Was Rob's pop at trying to fix Feifei's computer successful? Answer the question.

... *No. He deleted the script*.....

**Speaking:** What kind of hobbies or activities would you like to **have a pop at** in the near future? Why? If you have no idea, pick any of the activities listed below!

- Make a TikTok video.
- Volunteer at the local animal shelter.
- Go camping in the wilderness.
- Watch a movie in a drive-in movie theatre.
- Start your own YouTube channel.
- Take part in a dance flash mob.
- Go kayaking or stand-up paddling.
- Spend a day thrift shopping. (= in second-hand shops)
- Get a new and different haircut.
- Do a summer job and earn some extra pocket money.