

BBC Learning English  
Authentic Real English 地道英语  
To miss the boat  
错失良机



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*(Finn is picking up Feifei to go to his posh uncle's party)*

**Finn:** Come on, Feifei! We are going to be late. This party is my big chance!

**Feifei:** I'm almost ready, Finn! 大家好, 我是冯菲菲。Finn 邀请我和他一起去他那个特有钱的叔叔搞的聚会, 听说他还请了好多名流。

**Finn:** Come on! And lots of musicians... Well I'm a bit of a rocker myself, and this might just be my chance to meet someone famous... Come on!

**Feifei:** 原来 Finn 想借这个聚会显示一下自己的摇滚天赋! Ha! Coming!

**Finn:** Maybe I can join a band... live the rock star life... oh, this is my one big chance! Come on or I'll miss the boat!

**Feifei:** Miss the boat? 你赶不上船了? 怎么不早说! ?

*(Hurried steps, sound of rummaging in a wardrobe and a lifejacket inflating)*

**Feifei:** Here I am.

**Finn:** A lifejacket!?

**Feifei:** 当然得戴上救生衣, 以防万一! We are going on a boat! 我其实有点儿怕水, 因为我不会游泳。

**Finn:** But Feifei, there's no real boat. In English, we use the expression 'to miss the boat' to mean we are too late to take advantage of a good opportunity.

**Feifei:** What? 又没有船了? To miss the boat 船已经开走了, 其实是个英语成语, 比喻错过机会了, 坐失良机?

**Finn:** That's it. Listen to these examples.

### **Examples**

*If I hadn't bought a new flat last year I would have missed the boat. Properties are more expensive now.*

*I should have travelled the world when I was young. Now I have a family to take care of. I might have missed the boat.*

**Feifei:** 这个短语其实是用船离港这个动作来表示错过了一个机会。

**Finn:** Well, we're not going to make it on time now, unless... we take my uncle's helicopter! It's parked in a field nearby. Come on!

**Feifei:** Helicopter! 你叔叔还有自己的直升飞机? 那不成我们还真的坐飞机去参加这个聚会? 等一下 Finn.

*(Hurried steps, rummaging in the wardrobe again)*

**Feifei:** 这次我可是完全做好了飞行准备。

**Finn:** Feifei, is that what I think it is? A parachute?!

**Feifei:** 坐飞机当然得带降落伞了, 我不会游泳就更别提会飞了。再说了, 我有恐高症。

**Finn:** OK. Feifei, don't worry. Let's just go to the party. We don't want to miss the boat, do we?

**Feifei:** 不要 miss the boat, 也不能错过直升飞机! Bye.

**Finn:** Bye.

*(Helicopter taking off)*