

BBC Learning English  
Authentic Real English 地道英语  
Why the long face?  
为什么板着脸?



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**Jen:** Hi I'm Jennifer and I'm waiting for Helen. I did see her in the corridor earlier, and she was looking a bit unhappy. Wait, here she is.

Hi Helen!

**Helen:** Hi Jen.

**Jen:** What's the matter, Helen? Why the long face?

**Helen:** 我的脸怎么了?

**Jen:** Nothing's wrong with your face, except that it looks a bit upset.

**Helen:** But you just said I've got a long face. 我的脸很长。

**Jen:** No – what I said was...

**Helen:** You think I've got a strange face. 我就知道今天我的发型有问题。

**Jen:** No, I asked you: "Why the long face?"

**Helen:** Is it my nose? Is it too big? Or maybe my chin is the wrong shape. 要不我用口袋把头遮起来算了?!

**Jen:** No, no, no – that's not what I meant! First of all, you look LOVELY today.

**Helen:** OK... So what *did* you mean?

**Jen:** In English, the expression "why the long face?" is used as an informal way of asking someone what's wrong if they look upset.

**Helen:** 那么我脸上没问题。

**Jen:** No, there isn't. Let's hear some examples of the phrase in use.

### Examples

*You've just got a new job, a new house and a new man – you should be happy! Why the long face?*

*Hey there, don't look so sad! Why the long face?*

**Helen:** "Why the long face?" 这个短语其实是问是不是有什么烦心的事儿？为什么拉着脸？

**Jen:** Exactly. You could also say "what's up?"

**Helen:** That's very simple – you could say "what's wrong?" too.

**Jen:** So what *IS* wrong? Why do you look so miserable?

**Helen:** 今天我太倒霉了，什么事儿都不顺利。First I lost my car keys, then I was late for a meeting and I fell over and tripped and landed in a puddle on my way. 简直一团糟。

**Jen:** It sounds awful. I know, how about I tell you a joke to cheer you up – you'll like this one.

**Helen:** OK, why not. Let's hear it.

**Jen:** A horse walks into a bar. The barman says: "why the long face?"

**Helen:** So the horse was unhappy? 这有什么好笑的？

**Jen:** The barman says to the horse "Why the long face?"

**Helen:** Why would a horse be in a bar?

**Jen:** It doesn't matter – it's a joke. It's a *horse* so the barman says "Why the long face?"

**Helen:** 我还是没听懂这个笑话。

**Jen:** Well, the horse has a long face.

**Helen:** So it's unhappy?

**Jen:** No, well, yes, but that's the joke. Horses have long faces.

**Helen:** So why did it go into the bar again...?