

# Hold Your Horses

## HVOB

William: Hello and welcome to The  
English We Speak. My name is William Kremer.

Li: And I'm Li. William, what's our phrase today?

William: Well, hold on a second Li, let me just play you -

Li: No, come on, tell me now - what phrase are we looking at today?

William: Well,  
we'll come onto that in a minute  
but I've got some very special FX for  
you...

Li: More special FX?!

And special music? That's not what our people want! They  
want authentic English phrases, and they want them now! So what's our  
phrase today?

William: Li, hold your horses!

Li: Eh?

William: Hold your horses. It means: be patient.

Li: Oh... where does this phrase come from, William?

William: Well, apparently it comes from battles in times of war:

Example

FX - Battle re-enactment noise

Man: Hold your horses men!

FX - gunfire, horses whinnying

Li: Wow, Will, your FX this week are really special!

William: Hmmm, I know!

In that clip we heard a soldier telling his men to hold their  
horses before he started firing weapons.

Li: But nowadays, I am guessing,  
you don't need to be a soldier to use this  
phrase, right?

William: Exactly, yes. It means: don't rush,  
be patient. Let's hear a couple of examples:

Examples

Man: I've just gone online to order  
us some new computers. What's our charge  
code again?

Woman: Ah, well you're going to have to  
hold your horses! I haven't agreed a budget  
yet with the management team.

Man: I've just spoken to Mark -

Woman: Have you indeed?  
Well don't listen to a word that man says! He's never liked  
me...

Man: Hey, hey hey! Hold your horses.  
We didn't discuss you at all, as a matter of  
fact.

Li: So in that first example,  
the man couldn't order his computers yet because the  
company hadn't agreed a budget.  
He had to wait; he had to hold his horses.

William: Hmm.  
And in the second example it was slightly different. In that clip we  
heard a woman interrupt the man  
because she thought she knew what he was  
going to say.

Li: Ah yes,  
the man told her to hold her horse and wait for him to finish  
speaking.

William: Ah, yeah,  
but Li we never say "Hold your horse" we always say "Hold your  
horses".

Li: Oh OK, I'll bear it in mind. But, er, Will...?

William: Yeah?

Li: Can you hold this for me please?

Horse whinnying

Song Discussions is protected by U.S. Patent 9401941. Other patents pending.

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