

"Until You're Blue In The Face" [Transcript]. BBC audio, 2:44. Posted by "The English We Speak", June, 2016.
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Until You're Blue In The Face

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Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Feifei and joining me today is Rob. Errr... Rob, wake up!

Oh, o, yeah. Hi. Hi, everyone.

What's wrong, Rob?

It's the kids. My **house** is a mess. Toys, pencils, paints... everywhere. And I've been trying to get them to clear everything up.

And I guess you haven't been successful...

Hm... that's right. I shouted at them until I was blue in the face, but the house is still a mess!

Err, Rob, you don't look blue to me, just **your** normal color.

I know that. What I mean is: I'm wasting my time, because it won't happen. Whatever I say, I won't get **the** results I want.

Which is a tidy house. Hm. So, saying something until you're blue in the face means telling someone something is a waste of time **because** nothing will happen or change. Oh, dear Rob, it sounds like you have no control over your kids.

Hm, you're probably right. But, I'm not alone. Let's hear some other people who are blue in the face:

[sound]

I've told him to get **here** on time until I'm blue in the face, but still he continues to arrive late.

He told her not to break the speed limit on the motorway until he was blue in the face but she still did it and guess what: **she** got a speeding ticket.

[sound]

So saying "until I'm blue in the face" means: even though you keep saying something, nobody will listen to you. I know **what** that's like, Rob.

Really?

Yes. Every time you make me a coffee, I always ask you to put two sugars in it, but you never do.

Eh... sorry. **Pardon**, Feifei? I wasn't listening, I'm so tired.

Why are you so tired, Rob? All you did was ask the kids to tidy up.

Yes. But, because they didn't listen **to** me, I had to tidy everything up.

Actually, I can see **that** you really are blue in the face. Look, you've got blue paint there... and there and there.

Errrgh, those damn kids!

Calm down, Rob, your face **is** turning red.

Argh.

Bye!

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