

**Neil:** Hi, I'm Neil and this is Helen!

**Helen:** Hello.

**Neil:** What's wrong Helen? You're looking rather sheepish.

**Helen:** Sheepish? Like a sheep? I know my jumper is quite woolly.

**Neil:** I don't mean you look like a sheep. I mean you look sheepish, which is quite different!

**Helen:** (sarcastically) Of course, looking like a sheep and looking sheepish are two totally different things, obviously!

**Neil:** Yes. If I say you look like a sheep, it means, well, you look like a sheep. But if I say you look sheepish, it means you look embarrassed or ashamed about something.

**Helen:** To look sheepish means you look embarrassed or ashamed – like you've done something wrong or silly?

**Neil:** Yes!

**Helen:** Ah, yes.

**Neil:** Listen to some examples:

### Examples

*Tom walked into the room looking sheepish.*

*Emily grinned sheepishly as she closed the door behind her.*

*James gave her a sheepish look.*

**Neil:** So, come on Helen, why are you looking so sheepish today?

**Helen:** Ah, well...

**Neil:** Yes?

**Helen:** Well, you know that book you lent me?

**Neil:** You mean my favourite book of all time – the original edition of *The Private lives of the Greatest Cats in History*?

**Helen:** Yes.

**Neil:** OK Helen, now you're looking very sheepish indeed, so you'd better hurry up and tell me what happened to it.

**Helen:** I dropped it.

**Neil:** You dropped it? Well I hope it's not damaged, otherwise I'll have to -

**Helen:** ...in the river.

**Neil:** In the river! You dropped it in the river!

**Helen:** It was carried away, I couldn't get it out.

**Neil:** Oh no!

**Helen:** I'm so sorry. That's why I'm looking sheepish.

**Neil:** You should be looking even more sheepish than that. In fact, I expect you to look sheepish for several days. It was the best book in the world! 'Sheepish' doesn't do it justice...