**Keeping Secrets**

[](http://www.englishwithjo.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/secrets2.jpg)Keeping a secret can be difficult, and when it is a juicy secret it might be near impossible. It takes a great deal of willpower and determination not to want to tell someone what you just heard. If you feel that you do not have the willpower necessary, then do not put yourself in the position of even hearing a secret. If you don’t keep a secret it can hurt you in the long run. If it is your own secret and you don’t want anybody to know then don’t ever bring it up. Chances are you’ll end up “Spilling the beans”.

**Vocabulary:**

To ***keep*** a secret

To ***reveal***a secret

To ***tell*** a secret

To ***leak*** information

Phrasal Verbs

**Confide in** – “I have a secret I want to share. Can I confide in you?

**Let in on** – “I will let you in on a little secret”

**Spread around** – “I told John my secret and now it has spread around the whole school!”

Idioms

**Keep it under your hat** – “I just heard that Tony is leaving the company but keep this under your hat.”

**Just between you and me** – “Just between you and me, I think Alex is having an affair”

**My lips are sealed** – “Don’t worry, I won’t tell anybody. My lips are sealed”

**Let the cat out of the bag** – “It was meant to be a surprise but Jake went and let the cat out of the bag!”

**Spill the beans** – “I didn’t want anyone to know but unfortunately Mary spilled the beans”

**Listening:** 3:28 Podcast: Secrets

True/ false

1. Andrew thinks he is a good secret keeper.
2. Andrew enjoys when people tell him secrets.
3. Maura thinks knowing somebody else’s secret is stressful.
4. Only Maura thinks that when people confide in you it shows that you are trustworthy and dependable.
5. Maura has always been good at keeping secrets.
6. They think that younger people have more secrets.
7. The reason for gossip is that people don’t keep a secret.
8. Maura often confides in other people.
9. Andrew has a few major secrets.
10. They see a difference between something that is private and something that is secret.

**Conversation Questions**

Are you a secretive person?

Do you keep a lot of secrets to yourself?

Do you like to know secrets?

How important is it to keep other people’s secrets?

How hard is it to keep a secret?

If you had a secret, who would you confide in?

Do people confide in you? Are you someone people trust with their secrets?

Do you like it when your friend tells you a secret? Why or why not?

Have you ever let out a secret?

Can you keep a secret?

Do you ever tell your friends secrets?

Have you told someone a secret and they told other people?

Who is the person you know who is worst at keeping secrets?

Why do governments keep secrets from us?

What secret do you really want to know?

Do you have a secret recipe?

How do you feel when someone doesn't tell you their secret?

What are the secrets of the universe?

Who is the most secretive person you know?

What's the secret to looking young?

If you won the lottery would you keep it a secret?

What's the secret to success and a happy life?

Why do people have secrets?

Are men or women better at keeping secrets? Why?

If your friend did something dangerous or illegal would you tell someone about it?

If you found someone’s personal diary, would you read it or would you respect their privacy?

Are you concerned about Internet privacy?

What do you do when a web site asks you for information that you consider private or personal?

Do you use your real name on the Internet?

When applying for a job is it okay for the company to ask you your religion or marital status?

Do you think it is ok for a married couple to keep secrets from each other?

Do you think priests, doctors and lawyers should keep everything they are told confidential or are there some situations where it is ok for them to reveal the information?

What do you think about Wikileaks? Do you think it is a good or bad thing that they reveal secrets and classified information?

9:02 - 15:14 Podcast: Secrets

Answer the questions

1. What things should be kept private?
2. How do they feel when someone you don’t know very well tells you very personal things?
3. What was the topic of the phone call that Andrew overheard on the bus?
4. Why do some people speak about their dirty laundry on the phone?
5. What is Andrew cautious about?
6. What is Maura’s negative experience with Facebook?