

Overview

Watch the video podcast. Whose opinions do you agree with most?

1 Read and complete Andrea's introduction with the words from the box. Then watch the video podcast from 0:00 to 0:27 and check your answers.

open at about from for bit wouldn't



I'm a really ¹ open person. I don't keep secrets ² _____ my friends or family. I suppose I have things I ³ _____ tell everyone, things I'm a ⁴ _____ embarrassed ⁵ _____, but that's true ⁶ _____ most people. Are you good ⁷ _____ keeping secrets?

2 Are you good at keeping secrets? Look at the people below and watch the video podcast from 0:27 to 1:44. Circle the correct answer for each person: Yes, No or It depends.



A Eva
Yes/No/It depends



B Keiko
Yes/No/It depends



C Tomas
Yes/No/It depends



D Edwin
Yes/No/It depends



E Lee
Yes/No/It depends



F Roz
Yes/No/It depends



G John
Yes/No/It depends



H Meg
Yes/No/It depends

3 Look at the people above again. Read the statements below and write the name of the person it refers to.

- 1 She thinks the fact that she's Canadian explains why she isn't very good at keeping secrets. _____ Lee _____
- 2 He needs to be able to keep secrets for professional reasons. _____
- 3 He says it depends on the person with the secret. _____
- 4 People probably wouldn't confide in her so much if she wasn't good at keeping secrets. _____
- 5 She finds it hard to keep secrets because she's very open herself and likes to gossip. _____
- 6 He thinks it depends how important the secret is and what it's about. _____

Glossary: *confide in* = to tell a person you trust about personal things

4 *Is it ever a good thing to keep a secret from someone?* Read sentences 1–3 and watch the video podcast from 1:44 to 3:14. Tick the sentence which best summarises what the people say.

- 1 In general, they think that it would be dishonest to keep a secret from someone, especially if you've promised not to tell anyone the secret.
- 2 On the whole, they think that it's definitely not a good idea to keep a secret from someone as you can never know what the impact of that decision will be.
- 3 Most of the speakers think it would be necessary to keep a secret from someone if it would hurt their feelings or harm them in some way.

5 Look at the people below and watch the video podcast from 1:44 to 3:14 again. Cross out the incorrect words in their answers.



1 I think it's absolutely ¹*essential* / *necessary* sometimes to keep secrets from people. Erm, I wouldn't like to overdo it, I wouldn't like to be too ²*secretive* / *private* but occasionally, yes, you need to.



2 I'm the kind of person who, if I think it's better for the other person not to know, then I will keep the secret, ³*although* / *however* er, a lot of people will say that's being ⁴*dishonourable* / *dishonest*. But er, I, I think deep down, I'm quite an honest person, I always try and be ⁵*practical* / *pragmatic*, and sometimes to be ⁶*sensible* / *pragmatic* you have to keep secrets.



3 I think it is, because um, in the past there's been times when I've ⁷*exposed* / *revealed* too much because I thought that keeping secrets wasn't a good idea but that can lead to ⁸*harm* / *hurt* feelings, so I do think that sometimes it's necessary to, because if the person doesn't know, it doesn't ⁹*really* / *necessarily* hurt them. So, keeping a secret can be good.

6 *Do they have a secret talent that their friends or family don't know about?* Look at the people from Exercise 2 and the statements below. Then watch the video podcast from 3:15 to 4:38 and use a name from the box to complete each statement.

Tomas	Keiko	Eva	Edwin	Lee	John
-------	-------	-----	-------	-----	------

- 1 Lee thinks she can sing but her family and friends don't believe her.
- 2 _____ used to be in the Malaysian women's rugby team.
- 3 _____ has always liked cooking but kept it a secret because when he was at school, boys didn't learn how to cook.
- 4 _____ thinks that he's too old to have any hidden talents left.
- 5 _____ tries not to freak people out at parties with his 90 degree thumb.
- 6 _____ writes stories but doesn't think they're good enough to show to most people.

Glossary: *freak (someone) out* = make someone anxious or afraid

The way we speak

7 Look at the people in Exercise 2 and watch the video podcast from 0:27 to 1:44 again. Notice how the people respond to Andrea's question. Complete each extract with TWO words.

Eva: I think I'm very ¹ good at keeping secrets, yes.

Keiko: I'd like ² _____ so.

Tomas: I'd say it ³ _____ the secret.

Edwin: Yeah, I ⁴ _____ .

Lee: No. ⁵ _____ .

Roz: I've got ⁶ _____ I'm not very good at keeping secrets.

John: Yes, I think I'm ⁷ _____ at keeping secrets

Meg: Uh, ⁸ _____ they are.

Personalisation

8 Write a paragraph about your attitude to keeping secrets. Use Andrea's questions and language from the podcast to help you.

- Are you good at keeping secrets?
- Is it ever a good thing to keep a secret from someone?
- Have you ever got into trouble because you did?
- Do you have a secret talent that your friends or family don't know about?

BBC LINK



Many ordinary citizens are living extraordinary double lives to help the government. But what is it like to live with the danger and loneliness involved in keeping secrets for the state?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-14714120>

