

Catch Word #265 – Take the fifth

Episode description

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where it was best to just remain quiet? In English, there are many ways to say, “I don’t want to talk about it”. In this episode, Andrew and Kassy teach you two idiomatic expressions you can use to talk about being quiet and not talking.

The Catch Word series helps intermediate and advanced English language learners understand idioms, phrasal verbs and expressions that you may encounter in daily life. This Culips audio lesson will help you improve your listening skills, build your vocabulary, and give you interesting conversation topics to use every day.

Fun fact

Some people enjoy being in the spotlight and having the attention of an audience, but research has reported that about two-thirds of people say that they feel anxious and struggle to speak in front of large groups.

Expressions included in the study guide

- To take the fifth
- To clam up
- In a jovial manner
- [Someone’s] eyes pop out of [their] head
- In the running
- Goody two-shoes



Transcript

Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanations section that follows the transcript. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

Andrew: Hello there, everyone. My name's Andrew.

Kassy: And I'm Kassy.

Andrew: And this is the Culips English Podcast.

Welcome back to Culips, everyone. This is Catch Word, the series for intermediate and advanced English learners, where we teach you idioms, phrasal verbs and expressions that will help improve your English listening and speaking. To help me with today's lesson is my cohost, Kassy. Hey there, Kassy.

Kassy: Hey, Andrew and hi, listeners. I hope you're all doing well. So, Andrew, today we've got kind of an ironic episode planned for everyone.

Andrew: Yeah, it's funny we do actually. And it's ironic, because I know that most of our listeners are here because they want to improve their English speaking, right? But the topic for this episode is actually about the opposite. It's about shutting up and staying quiet.

Kassy: Yes, it is kind of ironic. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't learn how to talk about this situation in English, because I think both of these phrases, we're going to learn today, are pretty fun.

Andrew: Yeah, absolutely. And so, everyone, in today's episode, we're going to teach you two idiomatic expressions that are commonly used in everyday English, just like Kassy was saying, and they're about staying quiet and not speaking. And along the way, in this lesson, we'll give you some conversation examples and break down the meaning of the expressions so that you can understand them really well. And the two idioms that we'll be teaching you are, **to take the fifth**, and **to clam up**.

Kassy: And guys, we'll get started with the lesson in just a sec. But before we do, I want to let you know that there is a transcript and study guide for this episode available to all Culips Members. We've designed the practice exercises that are in the guide, specifically to teach you the important parts of this lesson and to help build your English fluency and help your English sound more natural. To learn about all the details, and to become a Culips Member and get that study guide, visit [Culips.com](https://www.culips.com).

Andrew: And also, we want to say a huge thanks to all of the Culips Members out there who support the work that we do here and keep allowing us to make new episodes and English lessons each and every week. We really do appreciate your support and we couldn't do it without you all.

And with that being said, Kassy, why don't we jump into today's lesson. And the first expression that we're going to teach everyone is, **to take the fifth, to take the fifth**. This is a verb, so we need to use to at the start when we are talking about it and there are four words total, right? **To take the fifth**, and fifth is spelled F-I-F-T-H. It is the ordinal number for the number five. And I'm going to say that word again slowly and clearly just a couple of more times because I know that English learners—well many English learners at least really struggle with the pronunciation of this word. And Kassy even I sometimes struggle with the pronunciation of this word. It's just a mouthful, so here it is. Fifth, fifth, first, second, third, fourth, fifth. And so, Kassy now that we know what the expression is, **to take the fifth**, could you go ahead and break this one down for us as the resident American on the podcast right now. Maybe you're in the best position to explain it.

Kassy: Yeah, so **to take the fifth** is a term that actually comes from the US Constitution, the Bill of Rights. The US Constitution has a bunch of laws that we have to follow. And the Fifth Amendment is a law that protects people in court. If you use the Fifth Amendment, it means that you are allowed to stay silent when questioned about something that you don't want to answer that might get you into trouble or might make you seem guilty about some crime. So, if you say, "**I take the fifth** or I plead the fifth", it means that under the US Constitution, the main laws in the US, you can keep quiet if you want to.

Andrew: Very well explained Kassy. And if I say something here, that's incorrect, please correct me because being a Canadian, we don't actually have the same law in Canada, we have a different law in Canada. However, my understanding from watching movies and TV shows about the USA is that if you are accused of a crime, you know, sometimes when you are in court, defending yourself, maybe a lawyer or the judge will ask you a question. And you're like, "Oh, if I answer this question, maybe I will get myself into trouble." You know, maybe you are actually guilty of the crime, and you want to protect yourself from getting into trouble. But sometimes people are wrongly accused, and you might actually be an innocent person and you think like, "Hey, if I answer that question that the prosecutor asks me, well, then, maybe I'll get into trouble. Maybe they'll think that I'm guilty, even though I'm innocent." So, because of this situation, there is this law in America that says that people have the right to be quiet, you don't have to answer questions if you don't want to. And this is called **taking the fifth** or pleading the fifth. So, this is the original meaning guys, and you'll hear this in the news all the time, actually, like it's really, really common. And you'll hear it used in this legal technical version all the time. But Kassy, there's also a slang way or a more casual way that we can use, **take the fifth**, or plead the fifth. As I mentioned just a moment ago, plead the fifth, P-L-E-A-D is another verb that we can use. So, we can say **take the fifth**, or plead the fifth and they both have the same meaning. But the other situation, when we can use this expression is just in everyday conversation, when somebody asks you a question, and you don't want to answer it, right? Maybe it's

about personal information. Maybe it's about something embarrassing that you don't want to share. Maybe it is, again, a situation that will get you in trouble, right? So, you're not in legal trouble but you might be in trouble with your friend or with your boss or something, then we can say **take the fifth**. And really the meaning is just that you don't want to answer a question, or you don't want to say something, you just wanna stay silent.

Kassy: Yeah, and one thing that I love about this expression is that it's kind of a polite, and cute way of saying that you don't want to talk about something. If there's a topic that you think is really awkward, you could very rudely reply, like, "Oh, I don't want to talk about that." Or, "It's none of your business." But if you want to reply in kind of a cute and **jovial manner**, you might say, "Oh, I take the fifth on that one. I don't really want to talk about it."

Andrew: Right. That's a really important point that it is a very polite expression, right? If you say, "**I'll take the fifth**." And especially if you have that kind of kind tone to your voice, then people will realize, oh, this is a topic that they don't want to talk about, or that makes them feel uncomfortable or is too personal, or too sensitive. And that's a very strong signal that you want to change the topic of the conversation.

Kassy: Well, Andrew, shall we get into our example conversations?

Andrew: Yeah. Why don't we take a listen to the first example now?

Friend 1: Is that a new phone you're using?

Friend 2: Yeah, it is. I just got it last week.

Friend 1: Can I see it for a second? It looks awesome.

Friend 2: Yeah, sure. It's amazing. I absolutely love it.

Friend 1: Yeah, this is great. How much did you pay for it? I heard this model is super expensive.

Friend 2: I'm gonna **take the fifth** on that one.

Friend 1: Really? That expensive?

Friend 2: Yeah, I'm not going to be buying anything new for a while.

Andrew: All right, so let's break this example conversation down. In that conversation, we hear two friends talking about a new phone. One of the friends just bought this new phone and it's an amazing, high tech, cutting-edge, brand new phone that is very expensive. And when asked about how much the phone cost, the woman replied, "I'm going **to take the fifth** on that one." And again, remember that when you **take the fifth** or when you plead the fifth, it means you don't want to say anything. You just want to stay silent. You don't

want to give any information. So, in this situation, we have to assume, we can make an assumption that if the friend doesn't want to say how expensive it is, then it's probably really, really expensive. Kassy, is that the kind of assumption that you would make in that situation?

Kassy: Yes, I think, I don't know about men, but I think women go through this problem a lot when they buy shoes or purses as well, because you can buy a really fancy, expensive purse.

Andrew: Yeah, exactly. And sometimes, you know, if you take it home and you tell your husband how much money you spent, maybe **their eyes would pop out of their head**. So, in that situation, it's better to **take the fifth** perhaps.

Kassy: Yep.

Andrew: OK, why don't we move on to the second example, conversation for today?

Kassy: Sounds great.

Coworker 1: Hey, are you feeling better today?

Coworker 2: Yeah, I'm feeling great. Why do you ask?

Coworker 1: You called in sick yesterday, remember? You told Tony that you were so sick, you felt like you were going to die.

Coworker 2: Ah, yeah, right. No, yeah. No, I'm totally fine today, weirdly enough.

Coworker 1: Wait a second. You didn't just fake being sick so you could go to that basketball game last night, did you?

Coworker 2: I'm gonna have to plead the fifth.

Coworker 1: Whatever you do, don't let Tony find out. If he does, he's gonna write you up.

Kassy: In this conversation, we have two coworkers, and we hear about how one of these coworkers faked an illness. He took a day off work, he took a sick day, but it wasn't because he was actually sick, right, Andrew?

Andrew: Yeah, he just wanted to go to the basketball game instead. So, when he was asked about this by his coworker, he said, "I'm going to plead the fifth." I'm not going to say that I actually went to the basketball game, I'm just going to stay quiet because I don't want to get in trouble from Tony, who I'm assuming is the boss in this situation, Kassy. And the coworker went on to say something really interesting, she said, "Don't let Tony

find out because he'll write you up." So, I'm curious, maybe you could explain to everyone what that means *to write somebody up*? Or if you get written up at work. What does that mean?

Kassy: Yeah, it doesn't necessarily mean they're gonna like, write your name on a wall, necessarily. But usually, employees have evaluations and if you do something wrong, or you do something that goes against company policy, then they're going to take note of that, so that when you are **in the running** for a promotion, or you know, being resigned in a contract, they can say, "Oh, this guy, he faked sick too many times. We don't want him anymore."

Andrew: Kassy, I have another question for you and it's kind of cultural this question. How common is it in the USA for people to call in sick when they're not sick? Is this something that people do often?

Kassy: I am a **goody two-shoes**. So, I have actually never done it, I think. But yeah, I think it's super common in the US.

Andrew: Yeah, I think it's also common in Canada. But I think it's more common among young people. And as you get older and get into more serious career type jobs, or jobs that are more important to you, then maybe people don't do it as often. Now, these days, I never do this, I would never call in sick and take a day off if I weren't sick, I would never do that at all. However, I remember back when I was like a high school student during my first part time job, university student doing some part time jobs that I really didn't care about, there were a couple of times when I called in sick just so that I could go hang out and spend time with my friends because I just didn't care about the job very much. Unfortunately, it's a little bit embarrassing to admit, but I did do it back in the day.

Kassy: Yeah, you gotta be careful though. One of my coworkers did that and my boss saw her at the mall that night.

Andrew: No pleading the fifth in that situation, right?

Kassy: Nope.

Andrew: All right. Why don't we move on to our second key expression for this lesson? And I like this one, Kassy. It's one that's really easy to visualize, and it is, **to clam up, to clam up**. The spelling of clam is C-L-A-M, OK? It's a phrasal verb actually, because we have that preposition, "up," included in the verb. So, **to clam up**. And it means to suddenly stop speaking, or just like pleading the fifth, you refuse to say something, or you don't say something, when asked to by someone else when someone asks you something. Kassy, I said, this was a really easy expression to visualize. Could you tell everyone why it's so easy to visualize?

Kassy: Yeah, a clam, as listeners probably know, is a shellfish. So, it's a little sea creature that has a shell. And when you eat clams, the shell is open. But when these clams are alive in order to protect their soft little bodies, they keep their shells closed tight, and like, hide. So, if you can imagine a person clamming up, you're imagining their—you know, outgoing personality, you know, closing in and refusing to speak.

Andrew: Yeah, exactly. It's almost like people are closing their mouths, or making a really tight seal with their mouths, just the way that a clam closes its shell in the ocean to protect itself from predators. So, guys, you can imagine then that if somebody is **clamming up**, they're not saying anything. They're just refusing to speak, or they've suddenly stopped speaking. So, I think what we should do, Kassy, is take a listen to a couple of conversation examples and then we can show all of our listeners how to use this expression in a real-life situation.

Kassy: Let's do it.

Friend 1: So, how did your date go last week? What was the guy's name again? Charlie, or something like that?

Friend 2: Yeah, that's right, Charlie. The day went really well. We just had coffee together. But things went pretty great, I thought. We have some things in common and I thought we really hit it off.

Friend 1: So, are you going to see him again or what?

Friend 2: I'm not sure. The next day after the date, I texted him to see how he was doing, and we were texting back and forth a little. And I asked if he'd like to meet up on Saturday morning to go to the farmers' market together. But he just kind of **clammed up** and he didn't reply to my text.

Friend 1: I'm sure he just got busy or something suddenly.

Friend 2: I don't know. It's been a few days now and still no reply. Maybe he's just not into me.

Andrew: So, let's break this example conversation down. In that conversation, we hear two friends chatting, and one of the friends was just on a date and she thought that the date went really well. She thought that her and the guy, whose name was Charlie—that they hit it off. And *to hit it off* means to have a really great start to a relationship like, the chemistry is good, and nothing is awkward, everything is good. You hit it off. So, she thought that Charlie and her hit it off. However, when she was texting him later in the week to ask if he wanted to see her again, suddenly he **clammed up** and didn't reply to her texts at all. He went silent. So, she was wondering, like, “Ah, you know, I thought things went well. I thought we hit it off, but maybe actually, he's just not into me.” And Kassy, that means that he's not interested in her, right?

Kassy: Yep. There's a movie that has that exact title, *He's Just Not That Into You*.

Andrew: Right.

Kassy: Listeners should watch it.

Andrew: All right. So, we can see there in that example conversation that you can use **clam up** in a texting situation too, right? If somebody suddenly just stops texting you then you could say, "Oh, they just **clammed up**."

Kassy: Yes, exactly right, Andrew. Let's move on to conversation example number two.

Andrew: OK.

Coworker 1: Have you noticed some things have gone missing in the office lately?

Coworker 2: Yeah, I have. My headphones randomly disappeared, and I heard a computer monitor from the storage room was gone too. Do you think someone in the office is stealing our stuff?

Coworker 1: I talked to the HR department about it and they just kind of **clammed up**. I'm not sure what's going on.

Coworker 2: Well, then it's either someone in the HR department that has been stealing our stuff, or they must know who the thief is, and they don't want to let anyone know about it until they can deal with the situation properly.

Coworker 1: Yeah, you're probably right. Anyway, until the thief is caught make sure to keep an eye on all your stuff.

Kassy: So, in this conversation, one office has a *kleptomaniac*. For listeners who don't know what that is, it's a person who likes to steal stuff.

Andrew: Almost impulsively, like it's a disease, they can't help themselves from stealing something, kind of a mental condition—health condition.

Kassy: Exactly. And one of the employees in this conversation went to talk to the HR department, the human resources department to ask what was going on. And the HR department **clammed up**, they refused to reply. They refused to talk about the situation, meaning that they probably knew who the thief was, but they weren't ready to let that knowledge be shared just quite yet.

Andrew: I feel like an HR department is the kind of place that will often clam up if you start asking questions about other employees, right? Like, Kassy, if we went to the Culips

HR department, which we don't have listeners, this is just an example. But if we were working at the same company, and I went to the HR department, and I was suddenly asking, you know, personal information about you, Kassy, like, "Oh, can you tell me Kassy's birth date? And can you tell me Kassy's salary and et cetera, et cetera?" They would **clam up**, right? They wouldn't share that information, because it's against your right to privacy in the company. So, yeah, definitely, when talking about the HR department, it could be a good situation to use this expression in.

Kassy: **Clammed up** is also an expression that I would use when talking about being nervous as well. I'm sure most of our listeners have experienced the nervousness of public speaking. You know, getting up in front of an audience and having to talk about something. I know, in that kind of situation, I always stand up, look at the audience and kind of **clam up** for a second.

Andrew: Yeah. So, that's actually a really great point. And that is that people can **clam up** on purpose and accidentally, maybe in that situation, when you're making a speech or talking in public, you actually want to do a great job, right? Nobody wants to do a crappy job when they're making a presentation in front of other people. But sometimes, accidentally, or just naturally, our bodies will **clam up** and will freeze and we don't know what to do. And yeah, in that situation, even though you want to talk, you want to be a great presenter, it's kind of an involuntary, natural reaction to being nervous in that situation. And you can **clam up** in that kind of context as well. That's a great point, Kassy.

Kassy: So, **to take the fifth** is usually used to avoid a conversation, but **to clam up** can be used to avoid saying something or because you're nervous about something or angry about something.

Andrew: Exactly. Well put.

Well, everyone, I think that's going to bring us to the end of today's episode. So, of course, thank you for listening. Thank you, as well for making it to the end of the episode, that's a big deal, and great job on completing an English study session with us.

Kassy: If you have a question or comment about this episode or would like to practice making some example sentences with the key expressions, please leave a comment on Culips.com or on our discussion forum and share them with us.

Andrew: And if you liked this episode, please support us. Your support allows us to keep making English lessons for learners all over the world and we couldn't do Culips without you. The best way to support us is by signing up and becoming a Culips Member. And for all the details about how to do that, please visit our website Culips.com.

Kassy: You can also support us by following us on social media, telling your friends who are learning English to check us out or by leaving us a review and rating on Apple

Podcasts or wherever you listen to Culips. That's it for now but we'll be back soon with another brand new episode. Talk to you then. Bye.

Andrew: Bye.

Detailed Explanations

To take the fifth

Verb

The expression **to take the fifth** means to politely say that you don't want to answer a question or give information about something. This expression is usually used in situations where answering the question would make the person appear guilty or get in trouble. Another variation of the same expression is to plead the fifth.

This expression originates from the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution, which gives people the right to not say things in court that would make them appear guilty. However, this expression has become a common phrase used in daily English conversations.

In summary, **to take the fifth** is a polite way to say that you would like to remain silent about a topic or question.

Here are a couple more examples with **to take the fifth**:

James: That history test was a lot harder than I expected!

Susan: I know, right. I even spent all weekend studying and I'm still not sure I passed. What about you? How much time did you spend studying?

James: I'm going **to take the fifth** on that one.

Susan: Ah, you must've spent all weekend at the beach again...

Elijah: How was that trip you took last month?

Amelia: It was great! We stayed at a beachside resort, went scuba diving and paragliding, and ate in a three-star Michelin restaurant. It was really a once in a lifetime kind of vacation.

Elijah: Wow! That sounds like an amazing trip. Must have been pretty expensive though, right?

Amelia: I'm going to plead the fifth on that.

Elijah: That expensive, huh?

To clam up

Phrasal verb

To clam up means to refuse to say anything or to become so nervous that you can't say anything. This expression is used both when someone chooses to not talk and also when someone unintentionally becomes unable to talk due to nervousness. Because this expression is used in situations where a person is refusing to talk or is too nervous to talk, it can have a slightly negative nuance.

A person might **clam up** when they're on stage in front of a large audience and they feel too anxious to speak. Someone might also **clam up** if they're being interrogated by someone and don't want to give away any answers.

This expression comes from the image of a clam closing its shell, similar to the way a person closes their mouth when they don't want to talk.

Here are a couple more examples with **to clam up**:

Jayden: Wasn't the opening night of your play last night?

Ivy: Yeah, we had the first showing last night.

Jayden: So, how did it go?

Ivy: Honestly, not very well. As soon as I walked on stage and saw all those people in the audience I **clammed up** and couldn't say my lines. The play director had to whisper my lines to me from the side of the stage.

Jayden: Ah, that sounds rough. But it was only your first play. I'm sure with a bit more experience you'll be able to perform your lines like a pro!

Stella: My partner and I got into a big disagreement last night. Do you ever have arguments with your spouse?

Zoey: Yeah, of course. From time to time, we get into an argument.

Stella: Really? Is your spouse very vocal in an argument?

Zoey: No, not really. He tends to **clam up** and just walk into the other room when he's upset.



In a jovial manner

Phrase

To do something **in a jovial manner** means to do it in a happy and joyful way. We can also use the word **jovial** as an adjective on its own to describe people or things that appear cheerful and positive.

In this episode, Kassy describes how a person can reply in a cute and **jovial manner**. This means replying in a way that is cute and happy, usually with high energy. You might reply **in a jovial manner** when you're excited about something or when you want to show the other person that you're being playful.

Here are a couple more examples with **in a jovial manner**:

Asher: Your dad seems like he's in a good mood today. Is he always so cheery?

Nova: Yeah, he pretty much always responds to people **in a jovial manner**. I think he just likes talking to people.

Asher: Wow, I wish my dad was that warm and outgoing.

Nova: Well, it's nice until you want some peace and quiet. Then it can start to get a little annoying.

Leo: I can't believe it's already December. Christmas is just a few weeks away!

Maya: I know! It's my favorite time of year! The music, the decorations, the gift giving... it's such a **jovial** time of year. I wish we could have this season all year long.

Leo: I like the **jovial** atmosphere, but I can't stand the cold weather. I much prefer the summertime!

Maya: Yeah, I guess you've got a point. If every day were Christmas, then Christmas wouldn't feel so special.

[Someone's] eyes pop out of [their] head

Idiom

In this episode, Andrew uses the expression **their eyes would pop out of their head** to describe the way a husband might respond to hearing that his wife bought an expensive purse. This means that the person would be so shocked that it would look like his eyes are popping out of his head.

This expression comes from the way many people often raise their eyebrows and open their eyes wider when they are surprised. When a person is very surprised or shocked by something, this facial expression causes the person to look like their eyes might fall out of their sockets. We can also use this expression when someone isn't making an exaggerated facial expression to say that they look shocked, amazed or surprised.

Here are a couple more examples with **[Someone's] eyes pop out of [their] head**:

Julian: I hope you're hungry. This restaurant is famous for its really big portions.

Emily: Really? How big?

Julian: I brought my dad here once, and when they brought his dish out, he was so surprised by the size of his order I thought **his eyes were going to pop out of his head**.

Emily: Oh no... Maybe I should have ordered a smaller item off the kid's menu.

Julian: Don't worry. If you can't finish it all you can get a to-go box to take the leftovers home.

Nora: You'll never believe what happened to me today!

Ted: What happened?

Nora: I finished grocery shopping and put my groceries into the back of my car, but when I opened the driver door to get in there was a squirrel on my seat! **My eyes nearly popped out of my head** when I saw it.

Ted: Are you serious! How did a squirrel get into your car?

Nora: It must have gotten in through the open window.

In the running

Idiom

If someone is **in the running**, it means they have a chance of winning a competition or being selected for a position. You can use this expression when it's not guaranteed that someone will be successful, but they have the potential to be. If someone performs poorly or is unlikely to be successful we can also say that they are out of the running.

In the episode, Kassy says that faking being sick can hurt a person's chances when they are **in the running** for a promotion at work. When a supervisor is choosing between multiple candidates for a job promotion, all the people who are being considered are **in the running** for that position.

This expression is also used in competitions, such as sport. Any team or athlete who has a chance of winning first place is **in the running** for first place.

In summary, **in the running** means to have a chance of winning or being successful in a competition or contest with multiple candidates.

Here are a couple more examples with **in the running**:

Luke: I heard you're **in the running** to be the next school president?

Lucy: I was, but I dropped out this morning. I decided that with all my other extracurricular activities, college applications starting soon, and taking care of my little brother after school I probably wouldn't have time. Besides, there are a lot of other great candidates **in the running**, so I'm sure whoever wins will do a great job.

Luke: Oh, sorry to hear that. I think you would have made a great school president.

Micah: Do you hear that Cornwall United is **in the running** for the district championship this year?

Leah: Yeah, I heard the news. I suppose I'll be cheering for them this season since my team already fell out of the running. How do you think they'll do in the championship?

Micah: Cornwall has such a competitive team this year. I really think they can go all the way and be district champions.

Leah: Yeah, I think they have a good chance, but there are a lot of other really good teams this year too. I suppose we'll have to wait and see.

Goody two-shoes

Noun

In this episode, Kassy says that she is a **goody two-shoes** so she has never called into work sick when she wasn't sick. This means that Kassy has never faked being sick to avoid work because she is an honest person.

A **goody two-shoes** is someone who behaves in a way that is virtuous and honest. This expression can be used in a sincere way when you want to describe someone as honest and nice. It can also be used in a sarcastic or negative way to describe someone who seems like they're being overly well-behaved in order to get attention from someone, often an authority figure in their life. In this type of situation, you might tell someone to stop being a **goody two-shoes**, and to instead behave normally.

Here are a couple more example with **goody two-shoes**:

Ruby: How did the teacher know we skipped class yesterday to go see a movie?

Dylan: Beth heard me talking about the movie at lunch and went straight to the teacher and told her everything!

Ruby: Geez, she needs to stop being such a **goody two-shoes** and mind her own business.

Dylan: I know... She's always trying to be the perfect student. I can't stand it sometimes.

Gabe: What did your parents say when they found out you got a parking ticket?

Drew: They said I should pay more attention to street signs when I'm parking, but they were glad I was honest about the situation. I think it's always best to be honest in those kinds of situations,

Gabe: Wow, you're such a **goody two-shoes**. If I had gotten a parking ticket, I think I would have been too scared of my parent's reaction to tell them.

Drew: You know, they'd find out eventually. It's better to tell them sooner rather than later.

Gabe: Yeah, I suppose you're right.

Quiz

1. **What does it mean if someone takes the fifth?**
 - a. They are the fifth person in a line
 - b. The person's favorite number is five
 - c. They are choosing to be silent or not answer a question.
 - d. They take the fifth item in a row

2. **If someone clams up they are...**
 - a. Pretending to be a clam
 - b. Swimming in the ocean
 - c. Not talking
 - d. Eating clams

3. **True or False? Your eyes pop out of your head when you are really happy**
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. **A goody two-shoes is someone who...**
 - a. is a virtuous and honest person
 - b. has two shoes
 - c. likes to wear good shoes
 - d. buys expensive things

5. **What does doing something in a jovial manner mean?**
 - a. You do it quickly
 - b. You do it in a loud way
 - c. You do it in a very professional way
 - d. You do it in a happy and joyful way

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Are you usually a talkative person? In what types of situations do you feel most comfortable talking?
2. When was the last time you clammed up? Was it by choice or because you were nervous?
3. Are you the type of person whose eyes pop out of your head when you're surprised? Or do you hold your composure well even when you're shocked?
4. When was the last time you were in the running to be chosen for a position or win in a competition?
5. What is a situation where someone could be too honest?

Quiz Answers

1.c 2.c 3.b 4.a 5.d

Episode credits

Hosts: Andrew Bates and Kassy White

Music: *Something Elated* by Broke For Free

Episode preparation/research: Andrew Bates

Audio editor: Kevin Moorehouse

Transcriptionist: Heather Bates

Study guide writer: Austin Headricks

English editor: Edden Yohanes

Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima

Image: Jelleke Vanooteghem (Unsplash.com)