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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Shakespeare Speaks

### Wear my heart on my sleeve: Lesson plan

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The video to accompany this lesson plan can be found here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/shakespeare/unit-1/session-21>

#### **Aims: Students will...**

- listen for gist and detail in the context of a video on Shakespeare's life, language and plays.
- understand the meaning, use and form of the idiom **wear my heart on my sleeve**.
- be able to understand and use phrases for talking about revealing - or hiding - your feelings and plenty more heart idioms.

#### **Task A: Lead in and gist**

- Ask students to discuss what they know about American actress Kristen Stewart and what they can remember about Shakespeare's daughter and Iago from Othello. Set the question: Do you think they hide their feelings well? Or are they very open and honest about their feelings?
- Play the video from the start and tell students to find out if they are correct. They discuss in pairs and then check as a class.

#### **Answer**

Shakespeare's daughter and Kristen Stewart are both very open about their feelings - they **wear their hearts on their sleeves!** Iago pretends to show his feelings, but really he hides his feelings - he says "I am not what I am."

#### **Task B: Detail**

- Give students a few minutes to read the questions and then play the video again for students to mark true or false. Encourage them to also note down why.
- Students discuss answers in pairs and then check answers as a class.

#### **Answers**

1. Daughter says that her father would not approve of her new boyfriend, Henry Bull because he doesn't love her enough. **False - Henry doesn't have much money.**
2. Bess and Daughter are talking about Will's play, Othello, when Will arrives. **False - they are talking about Henry Bull.**

3. In Shakespeare's play, Iago lies to everyone except Othello. **False – he lies to Othello too.**
4. Bess thinks it's important to always be open about your feelings. **False – she thinks daughter should hide her feelings.**
5. Nowadays we use the phrase 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' to describe people who are secretive. **False – we use it to talk about people who are honest and open.**
6. The phrase 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' is often used to talk about love. **True.**

### Task C: Discussion

- Give students time to prepare and then put them into new groups to share stories.
- Share interesting answers and focus on good examples of language, and errors to correct.

### Task D: Listening

- Tell students they are going to look at some phrases to describe how well people keep their feelings hidden.
- Tell students you will play a recording about eight people and they need to decide if the people being described are open, like Daughter, or dishonest, like Iago.
- Play the recording from this page:
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/shakespeare/unit-1/session-21/activity-2>
- Students discuss in pairs but don't check answers as a class at this stage.
- Then direct students to task D and tell them to complete the missing phrases.
- Play the audio again for students to check their answers.

### Answers :

1. Phillipe laid all his **cards** on the **table** and let her know how he was feeling.
2. Millie tends to **bend the truth**, so I don't think she was in as much danger as she made us think she was!
3. Maria's an **open book** – you can always see what she's thinking.
4. The new leader was being very **economical with the truth** when he said that he was going to create jobs for everyone.
5. Li's very **upfront** about her intentions. She just wants to make lots of money and then leave.
6. Put on your best **poker face** – we can't let anyone know how bad the situation really is!
7. The deal was all **above board**.
8. I never know what Aki is going to do next. She keeps her cards **close to her chest**.

### Task E: Phrases – to hide or not to hide

- Students complete the table with the phrases from task D to describe people who are honest and/or open and phrases to describe people who are secretive and/or dishonest.

Open and/or honest	dishonest and/or secretive
lay all his/her cards on the table	bend the truth
be upfront	be economical with the truth
be an open book	wear/put on a poker face
be above board	keeps her/his cards close to her chest

- Check understanding of the phrases and practise pronunciation.
- Practise the phrases with a game from the worksheet [Eight Vocabulary Activities](#).

### Task F: Heart idioms

- Write on the board the following sentences:  
If someone has a kind and generous character, we say they have a heart of g\_\_\_\_\_.  
And if someone has an unfriendly and unkind character, we say they have a heart of s\_\_\_\_\_.
- Students discuss the missing words in pairs and as a class.
- Answer: **a heart of gold** and **a heart of steel**.
- Tell students to look at sentences 1-5 and the list of heart idioms A-E underneath it. In each sentence, the words in **bold** can be replaced with a **heart idiom** from the list. They need to decide which heart phrase goes in which sentence – remind them to pay attention to the context!
- Check answers in pairs and as a class.  
**Answers: 1C, 2D, 3B, 4E, 5A**
- Check understanding of the phrases and practise pronunciation.
- Practise the phrases with a game from the worksheet [Eight Vocabulary Activities](#).

### Task E: Find someone who...

- Give students time to read the sentences and check they know how to form the questions. Then demonstrate the task by doing an example with a confident student.
- Students stand up, mingle and try to write a (different) name for each sentence. Encourage them to ask follow-up questions to find out more information and record it on their sheets.
- After ten minutes, share interesting answers and carry out error correction as a class.

# Wear my heart on my sleeve: worksheet one



## Task B: Detail

### True or false?

1. Daughter says that her father would not approve of her new boyfriend, Henry Bull because he doesn't love her enough.
2. Bess and Daughter are talking about Will's play, Othello, when Will arrives.
3. In Shakespeare's play, Iago lies to everyone except Othello.
4. Bess thinks it's important to always be open about your feelings.
5. Nowadays we use the phrase 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' to describe people who are secretive.
6. The phrase 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' is often used to talk about love.



## Task C: Discussion

1. Do you **wear your heart on your sleeve** or do you keep your feelings hidden - and why?
2. Are there any problems with being too open with your feelings - or being too secretive?

# Wear my heart on my sleeve: worksheet two

## Task D: Listening

1. Phillippe laid all his \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ and let her know how he was feeling.
2. Millie tends to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, so I don't think she was in as much danger as she made us think she was!
3. Maria's an \_\_\_\_\_ – you can always see what she's thinking.
4. The new leader was being very \_\_\_\_\_ when he said that he was going to create jobs for everyone.
5. Li's very \_\_\_\_\_ about her intentions. She just wants to make lots of money and then leave.
6. Put on your best \_\_\_\_\_ – we can't let anyone know how bad the situation really is!
7. The deal was all \_\_\_\_\_.
8. I never know what Aki is going to do next. She keeps her cards \_\_\_\_\_.

## Task E: Phrases – to hide or not to hide

Open and/or honest	dishonest and/or secretive

# Wear my heart on my sleeve: worksheet three

## Task F: Heart idioms

Replace the words in **bold** with a **heart idiom** from the list.



- 1) I **felt very sad and disappointed** when I opened the letter and realised that I had failed my exams.
- 2) I **told her all my secrets and worries** and she seemed concerned, but then she went and told everyone!
- 3) Sam can be so annoying at times, but **he only has good intentions**.
- 4) I pretended to be interested when my boss told me about my promotion, but **I just don't feel very interested or enthusiastic** anymore.
- 5) I know the entire Shakespeare play Othello **from memory**.

A) by heart

B) his heart is in the right place

C) My heart sank

D) I poured my heart out

E) my heart's not in it



## Wear my heart on my sleeve: worksheet three

<b>Find someone who...</b>	<b>Name and extra information</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• knows all the words to a song in English <b>by heart</b></li><li>• thinks they have a good <b>poker face</b></li><li>• is learning English, but <b>their heart is not in it</b></li><li>• never <b>pours their heart out</b> to their friends or family</li><li>• thinks they are <b>an open book</b></li><li>• has <b>bent the truth</b> about something today</li></ul>	