BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The White Elephant 9: Secrets



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Ceilia

Hi Peter – how's everything? Still enjoying working here?

Peter

Oh yes. It's a great restaurant. I love it here.

Ceilia

Good, good... do you want to know a secret?

Peter

Oh... go on then.

Ceilia

I can't tell anyone... but I've just entered us into the Restaurant of the Year awards – in the best newcomer category – hopefully we'll be nominated!

Peter

Oh that's great news... well done!

Ceilia

Mum's the word – I can't tell anyone until it's officially announced.

Peter

My lips are sealed.

Gordon

See you Ceilia... What are you smirking at?

Peter

Nothing... Oh go on then. Ceilia's just told me a big secret...

Gordon

What?

Peter

We've been nominated for Restaurant of the Year award! But keep it under wraps hey?

Gordon

No way! Gosh, Restaurant of the Year ... me, a winner!

Mary

Have you won something Gordon?

Gordon

No, no... you'll probably find out anyway... a little dickie bird just told me that I've won the Restaurant of the Year award! But ssshhh, keep it to yourself.

Mary

OK, I won't **let the cat out of the bag**... except there's no cat to let out. The awards aren't for another six months – we can't have won.

Ceilia

She's right Gordon. I've only just put the entry form in...

... what's up? Cat got your tongue?!

Vocabulary

mum's the word

keep it a secret

my lips are sealed

I won't tell anybody

keep it under wraps

keep it a secret

a little dickie bird has told me

somebody has told me something in private

keep it to yourself

don't tell anybody/keep it a secret

to let the cat out of the bag

tell somebody something that was supposed to be a secret

Questions

- I. Why does Ceilia say 'mum's the word' when she tells Peter her secret? (Hint: Watch the episode again.)
- a) Because she doesn't want her mum to know
- b) Because the news has not been officially announced
- c) Because they have won the competition but it hasn't been officially announced yet
- 2. Does Peter tell Gordon the secret that Ceilia told him?

(Hint: Think about exactly what he says.)

- a) Yes.
- b) No.
- 3. What does Mary say that means she won't tell the secret to anyone? (Hint: She won't let something out!)
- a) I won't put the cat in the bag
- b) I'll let the cat out of the bag
- c) I won't let the cat out of the bag

Answers

- I. Why does Ceilia say 'mum's the word' when she tells Peter her secret?
- a) Because she doesn't want her mum to know. Wrong. It's got nothing to do with her mum!
- b) Because the news has not been officially announced. Correct, well done!
- c) Because they have won the competition but it hasn't been officially announced yet. Wrong! Nobody knows who the winners are because Ceilia has only just entered the competition. Try again.
- 2. Does Peter tell Gordon the secret that Ceilia told him?
- a) Yes. Wrong. Think again!
- b) No. That's right. Peter tells Gordon, the restaurant has been nominated for Restaurant of the Year but Ceilia said she had just entered the competition.
- 3. What does Mary say that means she won't tell the secret to anyone?
- a) I won't put the cat in the bag. Wrong! Try again.
- b) I'll let the cat out of the bag. Wrong, that's not right. She doesn't want to let anything out of the bag. Try again.
- c) I won't let the cat out of the bag. Correct. That's what she said.