

## Idioms | Lesson 12

all ears | clam up | get something off one's chest | tip of the iceberg | put one's foot in one's mouth

### Example Dialogue

**Hannah:** I'm so nervous these days...

**Daniel :** Why?

**Hannah:** I put my foot in my mouth and told Sarah a few horrible things.

**Daniel :** You did? I can't believe it. Something *must* have happened. Tell me! I'm all ears.

**Hannah:** Well, I had to prepare for a serious project at work. It was very stressful... And it was just the tip of the iceberg, as I had problems at home, too.

**Daniel :** Honestly? You always clam up! You never tell anyone about what's bothering you.

**Hannah:** I guess you're right... Anyway, I got mad at Sarah and all the anger just... Came out as words. I honestly regret it now.

**Daniel :** I think if you apologize and tell Sarah what you have just told me now, she will forgive you.

**Hannah:** Yeah, that's true. Thanks, Daniel. I finally got it off my chest!

**Daniel :** No problem!

🗣️ *Try to figure out the meaning of these idioms.*

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### Example Passage

Yuriko is a great friend, mostly because she is a good listener. A lot of her friends turn to her when they need to get something off their chest. Whenever she meets someone, she is all ears. However, Yuriko is not good at giving advice. Sometimes she puts her foot in her mouth and says awkward things. As a result, most of the time she just listens to people. However, everyday misunderstandings are just the tip of the iceberg. Now and then, people trust her with their deepest secrets. You can say Yuriko is amazing, because even people who are clammed up tell her their worries.



*Again, try to figure out the meaning of these idioms.*

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### Definitions

**all ears** | listening eagerly and carefully

*So what happened? Please, tell me! I'm **all ears**.*

**clam up** | refuse to talk or answer

*Shy people tend to **clam up** when strangers address them.*

**get something off one's chest** | to discuss problems that one is anxious about;  
confess

*I had spent two months worrying about it and I was glad to **get it off my chest**.*

**tip of the iceberg** | a small, noticeable part of something much greater

*Spreading rumors was only **the tip of the iceberg**! She completely ruined his life.*

**put one's foot in one's mouth** | to say something you regret (e.g. insulting, stupid, etc.)

*He really **put his foot in his mouth**! He made Julia cry during the meeting.*

*Make sure you can understand the meaning of these idioms.*

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### Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct **idioms** (in the correct form) to complete the dialogue.

1 | So, what did Anne tell you? I'm \_\_\_\_\_.

2 | When I want to \_\_\_\_\_, I talk to my mother.

3 | Bad acting in this film is just the \_\_\_\_\_. The story is horrible, too!

4 | Why do you always \_\_\_\_\_ when I try to talk to you? Say something!

5 | Whenever I talk about my brother, Susan is \_\_\_\_\_. I wonder if she likes him...

6 | Phil \_\_\_\_\_ when he said that the Moon was a planet.

7 | It's never good to \_\_\_\_\_ when you have a problem. The best way to solve it is to discuss it with someone.

8 | The man was never caught for his crime; however, he never \_\_\_\_\_.

9 | Oh, god... I got drunk yesterday and \_\_\_\_\_! I said so many stupid things...

10 | The first floor of this department store is just the \_\_\_\_\_! There are a lot more...



**APPLICATION:** Create your own sentences using these idioms.

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### Exercise

Fill in the blanks with the correct **idioms** (in the correct form) to complete the dialogue.

**Mayumi** : How is it going Lewis?

**Lewis** : Hey, Mayumi! I'm fine. I finally talked to Yoshi and \_\_\_\_ our argument \_\_\_\_\_.

**Mayumi** : That's nice. You see: it's way better than \_\_\_\_\_ and saying nothing.

**Lewis** : He actually opened up and said what was bothering him too. I was \_\_\_\_\_, for once.

**Mayumi** : I told you you're not a good listener!

**Lewis** : Ok, ok... I know now you were right all along.

**Mayumi** : I hope you'll stop \_\_\_\_\_.

**Lewis** : Yeah. I used to say a lot of stupid things back in the day.

**Mayumi** : That's just the \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to you.



**APPLICATION:** Create your own dialogue using these idioms.

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