According to a survey, the Philippines ranked third among the countries who have the largest number of English-speaking citizens. Flattering as it is, it is also sad to say that although majority of Filipinos can understand and speak English, there are some professionals who are not so proficient in the second language.

There are advantages of being proficient not only in the native tongue or the first language, but also in the second language, which is the English language. First, the English language speakers are the priority to be hired for overseas jobs. This country ranks as having the most number of call center agents, because of the fluency in the English Language. Koreans abound in the Philippines to learn the English language for the facility in communication, both in business and in studies.

It does not mean that our nationalism is lessened if not totally removed, if we become proficient in our second language. In the first place, we must be proud if we can understand and speak another language apart from your first language. It is not that everyone knows two languages.

For a DepED employee like me, I need to brush up my knowledge in the English language for good speaking and writing skills. For a start, the following idiomatic expressions, their meanings and a sample sentence are worth adding to your list:

- **Back to the salt mines** - Back to the job; back to work that is as hard or as unpleasant as working in a salt mine. e.g. “The lunch break is over, boys, back to the salt mines.”
• **At the top of one’s voice or at the top of one’s lungs.** AS loud as you can; with the greatest possible sound; very loudly. E.g. He was singing at the top of his voice. (he was singing as loud as he could.)

• **Clinging Vine** – a very dependent woman; a woman who needs much love and encouragement from a man, e.g. Fe is a clinging vine; she cannot do anything without her husband. (Mary depends on her husband more than is normal).

• **Come clean**—to tell all; tell the whole story; to confess. E.g. The man suspected of corruption, came clean after long questioning. (He confessed everything after long questioning).

• **Drop Dead**- - to go away or be quiet; stop bothering someone—usually used as a command. E.g. “Drop Dead! “Bill told his little sister when she kept begging to help him build his model airplane. (Bill didn’t want to help his little sister, and when she kept asking he told her to go away).

• **In the doghouse**—in disgrace or disfavor. E.g. Our neighbor got in the doghouse with his wife by coming home drunk. (Our neighbor’s wife is angry with him coming home drunk).

• There are still a huge list of idioms, phrases, words that may be beneficial to employees like us. We can search them on English books, internet, magazines newspapers or just merely listening to individuals with their talks or lectures.