



Truth and Lies

Lesson code: 11E9-Z6C8-IE82

UPPER INTERMEDIATE+

1 Warm-up

Is it ever okay to tell lies? In what situation would you do this?

2 Describing people

Put each adjective into the correct category. Then compare with a partner.

crooked
sincere

deceitful
sly

genuine
trustworthy

honest
truthful

shady
untrustworthy

Someone who tells the truth: _____

Someone who lies: _____

3 Liars and dishonest people

Match the examples with the types of dishonest people.

1. A person who tries to sell you something that isn't in good condition is
2. A person who falls over when they are not hurt during a game is
3. A person who pretends that they are a doctor when they aren't is
4. A person who lies uncontrollably is a
5. A person who adds details to anecdotes to make them seem more exciting is
6. A person who criticizes you for eating a burger then eats a large pizza is

- a. a cheat
- b. a con artist
- c. a fraud
- d. a hypocrite
- e. a pathological liar
- f. a storyteller



4 Lying verbs

Use the correct form of the verbs in each of the sentences below.

deceive betray exaggerate mislead pretend rip off

1. Oliver felt _____ when he saw his girlfriend kissing another man.
2. He knew he had been _____. The repairs cost thousands more than they should have.
3. Juan often _____. His stories are a little unbelievable.
4. Edwin _____ that he had a science degree, but his employer soon discovered the truth.
5. The man knew he was being _____ when the caller asked for his account details.
6. The public were _____ about the new product. It wasn't safe to eat at all.

5 Idioms

Match the underlined parts of the sentences with their definitions.

1. I need to come clean. I ate all of the cake last night.
2. If you lie through your teeth, I think it's easy to tell. So I told her the truth immediately.
3. I'm not sure I'm going to like what I hear, but if you have to speak your mind, make it quick.
4. I'll level with you. No one likes the theme for the party.
5. It was easy for him to stretch the truth. No one knew exactly how many countries he had visited.
6. Suspects will often be economical with the truth. They don't tell us everything they know.

- a. be honest with someone
- b. lie to make something seem better than it is
- c. not give all the facts about something
- d. say honestly what you think, even if it might upset someone
- e. say something that you know is completely not true
- f. tell the truth about something you have been keeping a secret

Now, ask and answer the questions below with a partner.

Do you prefer to 'speak your mind' or stay quiet? Why?

Do you think being 'economical with the truth' is lying? Why/why not?

6 Talking Point

Answer any of the questions below in pairs or small groups.

1. Who do you think lies more, men or women? Why?
2. Do you think it is difficult to be honest? Why/why not?
3. Do you think you can tell when someone is lying? How?



1 Warm-up

Encourage a short discussion.

2 Describing people

Students work alone and then compare in pairs.

Someone who tells the truth: genuine; honest; sincere; trustworthy; truthful

Someone who lies: crooked; deceitful; shady; sneaky; untrustworthy

3 Liars and dishonest people

1. b

2. a

3. c

4. e

5. f

6. d

4 Lying verbs

Students can work in pairs and then check with the teacher. Make sure that the students are happy with the meaning of each verb or phrasal verb.

1. betrayed

2. ripped off

3. exaggerates

4. pretended

5. deceived

6. misled

5 Idioms

Students can work in pairs and then check with the teacher.

1. f

2. e

3. d

4. a

5. b

6. c

6 Talking Point

Monitor students conversations. Make a note of any typical errors and write up any useful language on the board.

