

EPISODE 66
LEVEL B2

READING COMPREHENSION



HONESTY



Most people claim that they are honest and **sincere** (= true, not hypocritical). However, when asked whether they have ever lied, for example, about their age, salary or when giving their address or phone number, it turns out that they are **economical with the truth** (= they lie) more often than they think. Even though we tend to believe that it is morally wrong to steal something from a shop or cheat on a partner, we do not consider cheating in an exam to be unethical. Moreover, we believe that sometimes it is better to tell a **white lie** (= a lie told to avoid making somebody upset) than to tell the truth. We also tend to **make up stories** (= create them) when we need to make an excuse, for example, for not doing our homework. There are not many people who are **compulsive liars** (= people who lie repeatedly) but if we need to, we **mislead** (= give false information) or **deceive** (= cause to believe what is not true) others easily.

More contexts for the new words:

- The student's excuse for being late **doesn't ring true**. (= it doesn't sound true or likely)
- They were found guilty of trying to **bribe** officials (= give them money or some present in order to get something from them).



EXERCISE 1

Decide if the sentences are true or false:

1. If you bribe somebody you break the law.
2. If you are economical with the truth you are dishonest.
3. A compulsive liar rarely tells the truth.
4. Sincere people are unethical.
5. If something doesn't ring true it's not true.
6. If you mislead somebody, you deceive the person.

EXERCISE 2

Match the question halves. Then answer the questions.

1. Is it sometimes better to tell a white
2. Have you ever made up
3. Do you know anybody who is a



- a) some story because you didn't want to tell the truth?
- b) lie or is it always better to tell the truth?
- c) compulsive liar?

ENGLISH IN USE



In this lesson we are going to talk about adverbials of concession and contrast.

We use the following phrases to contrast two ideas:

but/ yet/ however/ although/ even though/ despite/ in spite of

We use *but* and *yet* in the middle of the sentence.

*It was raining, **but** we went for a walk.*

*It was raining, **yet** we went for a walk.*

We usually use *however* at the start of a new sentence.

*It was raining. **However**, we went for a walk.*

Although and *even though* are followed by a subject and a verb.

***Although** it was raining, we went for a walk.*

***Even though** it was raining, we went for a walk.*

Despite and *in spite of* can be followed by a noun just as in the following sentences.

***Despite** the rain, we went for a walk.*

In spite of the rain, we went for a walk.

Those two phrases can also be followed by a subject and verb:

Despite the fact that it was raining, we went for a walk.

In spite of the fact that it was raining, we went for a walk.

IDIOM CLOSE-UP



Don't let insurance companies **PULL THE WOOL OVER YOUR EYES** – ask for a list of all the hidden charges.

If you **pull the wool over someone's eyes** you deceive the person.

PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



1. When you **GET AWAY WITH SOMETHING** you do something illegal but you don't get punished for it.

*If I could **get away with** it, I wouldn't pay any tax at all.*

2. When you **COVER SOMETHING UP** you hide the truth about something by not telling what you know or by preventing other people from telling what they know.

*It was a real scandal, but the school tried to **cover the whole thing up**.*



EXERCISE 3

Complete the sentences with correct prepositions:

1. They have repeatedly broken the law and got with it.
2. Don't pull the wool my eyes – I know what you're trying to do.
3. They knew they had done something wrong and lied to cover it

NEWS



HOW HONEST ARE YOU?

1. You spot a wallet on the street with many hundred dollars banknotes in it. What do you do?
 - a) Quickly put the wallet into your bag making sure no one is looking.
 - b) If people are around, you search the owner **reluctantly**.
 - c) How can you take someone else's money? You start looking for the owner immediately.

2. At the supermarket, when buying grocery, you notice that the cashier has given you a \$100 note instead of a \$10 note. What do you do?
 - a) Pocket it and get out of the supermarket **ASAP**.
 - b) **Ponder** for a while and then pocket it.
 - c) Return it immediately.

3. When leaving a car park, you accidentally **bump into** the car parked next to yours and damage it slightly. What do you do?
 - a) Leave the car park as quickly as possible.
 - b) Leave a note of apology on the windscreen with your name and address.
 - c) Wait for the driver to come back.

4. You are sitting in a very important exam. Do you copy from others if necessary?
 - a) Absolutely. Even if I just want to verify the answers.
 - b) Only if I don't know the answers to some questions.
 - c) I would never think of copying.

5. It's a beautiful sunny day and some of your friends have decided to go for a picnic. They ask you to go with them. What do you do?
 - a) Call your boss and say you are ill.
 - b) Call your boss and ask for a day off.
 - c) Tell your friends you have to go to work.

Results:

Mostly As – you may consider yourself a sincere person but you take advantage of every opportunity to act dishonestly

Mostly Bs – you try to be honest but you do not always succeed

Mostly Cs – you are an honest and sincere person in every situation.

GLOSSARY

- **reluctantly** – unwillingly
- **ASAP** – as soon as possible
- **to ponder** – consider something, think about it
- **to bump into something** – knock against something with force

KEY TO EXERCISES

Ex. 1

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. False – they are honest and ethical
5. False – it might be true or it might be a lie
6. True

Ex. 2

1. b
2. a
3. c

Ex. 3

1. away
2. over
3. up