



Clever Pennies: Honesty Oaths, Misreporting Performance, and MTurk

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1 Works for me dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bix7kfrn

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ABSTRACT

Workers in online labor markets routinely misrepresent the value of effort, both through shirking and misreporting performance. We execute a field experiment on Amazon MTurk to determine whether honesty oaths impact the cost of worker lies. Employing a design that follows the “die roll” paradigm, we determine that oaths elicit more truthful behavior, although they primarily impact extreme lies. Oath-taking decreased the cost of misreporting by 12%. While shirking is widespread, oaths marginally decrease it. Male workers misreport performance more often on average than females, yet both sexes are equally responsive to oath-taking.

JEL Codes: D90, D91, C8, C93, J9

ATTACHMENTS

Supplemental Resources,
Clever Pennies- Honesty
Oaths, Misreporting
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KEYWORDS

oaths, self-reporting, lying, MTurk, productivity, field experiment

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Protocol and questionnaire found in attached document

