

Is it ever OK to lie?

- 1 A invites his old friend B to dinner along with some people that B can't stand. So, on the afternoon of the dinner, B texts A to say that he has a stomach bug and won't be able to come.
- 2 A husband asks his wife why she thinks he is putting on weight. She has thought for years that he is inactive and drinks too much beer and tells him so **bluntly**.
- 3 A tells B a **rumour** that C and D, both in relationships with other people, are having an **illicit** affair. B only half-believes the story, but tells several other people anyway.
- 4 A woman asks her best friend if the colour of her new dress suits her. Her friend doesn't think it does, but says it looks great.
- 5 A woman has a terrible morning in which everything seems to go wrong. She retells the story throughout the day to various friends, each time **embellishing the facts** to make it more amusing. By the end of the day, it has changed considerably!
- 6 A man who has been going out with his girlfriend for two years meets and falls in love with another woman. However, he does not finish with his girlfriend, who is **under a false impression** that they are going to get married.
- 7 A little girl tells her mother that her brother has eaten some sweets which their mother had told them not to eat.
- 8 A child has broken his mother's favourite vase, but when she asks, he says the cat did it.
- 9 **Testifying under oath**, a mother tells a court of law that her teenage son was at home with her on the evening that he was actually stealing a car with his friends. As a result, her son **gets away with** the crime, although his friends are sent to prison.
- 10 For her doctoral thesis, a student copies some sections from an obscure book that is now out of print and **passes it off** as her own work.
- 11 A man goes round calling on old-age pensioners, selling them **bogus** home security systems for hundreds of pounds. The security systems are completely useless.
- 12 A man makes a perfect copy of a painting by a famous artist, which is sold to a private collector for a large amount of money.
- 13 A group of young men set up some photos of what are supposed to be aliens. Thousands of people **are taken in** and they end up selling their pictures to several newspapers.

- 3 Match phrases a–m with situations 1–13 in exercise 2. More than one answer may be possible.

- a telling a **white lie** 4
- b spreading malicious gossip
- c making an excuse
- d exaggerating
- e telling tales
- f committing perjury
- g conning people out of money
- h telling a fib
- i plagiarism
- j cheating on someone
- k committing forgery
- l carrying out a hoax
- m telling a few **home truths**

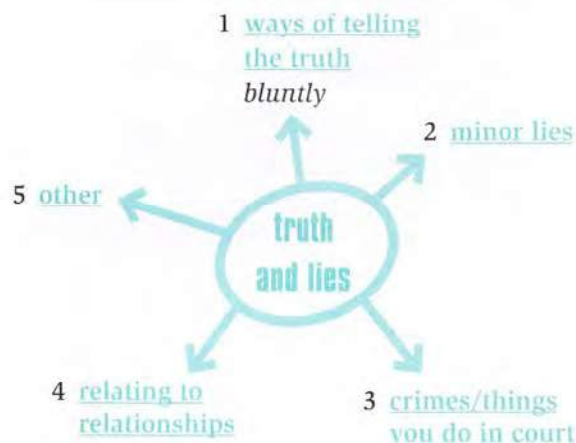
- 4a Read the situations in exercise 2 again and decide which comment below best reflects how you feel about what the person did.

- It was more **tactful** to lie than to tell the truth.
- It was wrong to **deceive** others, but it didn't do much **harm**.
- What this person did was **immoral**, but understandable.
- Personally, I wouldn't **trust** someone who behaved like this.
- This was immoral and **unscrupulous**.
- other

- b Work in pairs and compare your answers. Discuss the questions using the words in bold in exercises 2, 3 and 4a to explain your answers.

- How would you have behaved in situations 1–6?
- In situations 7 and 8, which child would you punish or tell off and why?
- Which crimes in situations 9–13 are the most/least immoral?

- 5 Add the words/phrases in bold in exercises 2, 3 and 4a to the word web below.



Listening

Living a lie

1 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- What do you think are some of the qualities of a good undercover police officer?
- What do you think are some of the things undercover officers must never/always do?
- Would you make a good undercover officer? Why?/Why not?

2a You are going to listen to the true story of an undercover officer, Jon K, who spent seven years spying on environmental activists. Which words/phrases in the box do you think apply to Jon K and which to the activists?

provide intelligence a new identity vegan
be set up by the police protest banners infiltrate
charged with a crime unconventional sue the police
have your conviction overturned

b 10.1 Listen to the first part of the story of Jon K and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false statements.

- 1 Jon's father was an undercover officer.
- 2 Jon spent as much time as possible with his family.
- 3 Jon was chosen to join the new police unit because he already looked like an activist.
- 4 He was nicknamed Johnny Cash because of his skill as a climber.
- 5 Jon agreed with many of the aims of the environmental protestors.

3a You are going to listen to the second part of the story. Which of these sentences do you think are the reason Jon began to question which side was right? More than one reason may be correct.

- 1 He was attacked by the police.
- 2 He fell in love.
- 3 He was charged with a crime.

b 10.2 Listen and check your answer to exercise 3a. Answer the questions.

- 1 What happened at the protest in Edinburgh in 2004?
- 2 What happened to Jon's marriage?
- 3 Who did Jon find it most difficult to lie to?
- 4 Why did the police arrest over 100 people?
- 5 Why did Jon suspect he was being set up?



4 You are going to listen to the final part of the story. Predict what you think will happen.

5 10.3 Listen and answer the questions.

- 1 Why did Jon come under suspicion from activists and the police?
- 2 Why did Jon resign?
- 3 How was his true identity uncovered by his activist friends?
- 4 What was Jon's chance for redemption?
- 5 Who sued the police and why?

6 Work in groups and discuss the questions.

- Who do you sympathise with most in the story?
- Who do you think was most to blame for what happened?
- What do you think the outcome of the two cases against the police should be? What damages, if any, would you award?
- What advice would you give to a friend who wanted to become an undercover police officer? An environmental activist?

PATTERNS TO NOTICE

Phrases with as ... as + verb

1 Complete the sentences from the story.

- 1 Jon always seemed to have _____ much money as he _____.
- 2 He had to get out _____ soon as he _____.

2 Notice these similar patterns.

(verb) +	as much as	+ person +	want/ wanted like/liked can/could need/ needed
	as many as		
	as soon as		
	as fast as		
	as long as		
	as often as		
	as far as		

You can eat as much as you want.

Run as far as you can, then stop.

Answer the questions using phrases from the Patterns to notice box.

- What does this sign outside a restaurant mean:
'Buffet: all you can eat for €10'?
You can eat as much as you want.
- You're at a very boring party. Your partner asks when you can leave. What do you say?
- How many cigarettes can you buy at the airport?
There are no limits.
- I can't give you a lift all the way home, so how far should I take you?
- How long should I spend doing my homework?
- Oh dear, I can't eat all this! Do I have to eat it all?
- How often did you go swimming when you were on holiday?
- It's very urgent that I see you. How soon can you get here?
- How many people can I invite to my birthday party?
- Can't you two walk any faster?
- How long can I keep the computer games you lent me?

Wordspot

well

Look at the word web. Underline any uses of *well* that you were not previously aware of.

2 healthy (= adjective)
look/feel well
Get well soon

3 well- + past participle
well-built
well-thought-out
well-dressed

4 an interjection in speech
Well, maybe
he's right.

5 for emphasis
well before
dawn
well behind us
well worth doing
well aware

6 to add probability with may, might and could
He may/might well be at home today.
Future generations may/could well see things very differently.

phrases to congratulate people
Well done!
Well tried!
Well played!
Well said!

7 as well (as) = in addition (to)
I'll have some of this cheese as well, please.
As well as being very talented, she's very hard-working.

2 As an interjection, *well* can have subtly different meanings. Match the meanings in the box with uses 1–8.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| for emphasis | to pause |
| to accept a situation | to show surprise |
| to show anger/annoyance | to express doubt |
| to show you've finished | to continue a story |

- Well, well! Fancy Andy and Laura getting married!
- Well, you know what I think – I completely agree!
- Well, I think she could have phoned and apologised!
- Well, maybe. What do other people think?
- Well, let me think.
- You know what you told me about Erica the other day? Well, after I spoke to you, I saw her in the supermarket and ...
- Well, if you're sure that's what you really want ...
- Well, I think that's it then.

3a Work in pairs. What do the *well-* + past participle adjectives in the box mean? Use a dictionary if necessary.

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| well-balanced | well-educated | well-looked-after |
| well-behaved | well-written | well-paid |
| well-built | well-informed | well-prepared |
| well-chosen | well-fed | well-read |
| well-dressed | well-known | well-thought-out |
| well-earned | well-laid-out | |

b Which of the adjectives in exercise 3a should these things/people be? Compare your answers with other students.

- books
- children
- shops
- exam candidates
- teacher
- a holiday
- babies
- a potential husband/wife
- everyone

4 Put *well* in the correct place in the sentences to add emphasis.

- I think all of you are ^{well} aware of the difficulties we have faced recently.
- By the time we got home, it was after eight o'clock.
- Personally, I think the end results have been worth the effort.
- As you know, you are not allowed to smoke in here.
- By the time they arrived – over two hours late – I was truly fed up.
- Marta is ahead of the other students in the class.
- The Chinese were using paper money before people in the West.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF SOMEONE IS LYING?



1 HOW THE ANCIENT CHINESE DID IT

The Chinese used rice. An examination for truthfulness might go something like this: 'Is your name Chiang?' (They know the guy's name is, in fact, Chiang.)

'Yes.'

The interrogators hand Mr Chiang some rice. They have already counted the number of rice grains.

'OK. Put this handful of rice in your mouth. Hold it for three seconds. Spit it out.'

Then they count how many rice grains come out.

'Did you steal the chicken?'

'No.'

'OK. Put this handful of rice in your mouth. Hold it for three seconds. Spit it out.'

Again, they knew how many grains went in, and they count how many come out. If more grains come out after the question about the stolen chicken than came out after the 'easy' question, where the suspect truthfully gave his name, they know he's lying. How? The stress of being caught lying makes the suspect's mouth drier. Fewer grains stick. More come out. Mr Chiang stole the chicken.

2 MODERN LIE DETECTORS

Modern lie detectors, also known as polygraphs, rely on the same basic principle – that lying causes bodily changes which can be detected and measured. Having agreed to do the test (if the test is done under duress, the extra stress caused makes the test unreliable), the suspect is connected to three devices measuring blood pressure, breathing rate and electrodermal response (the increased amount of electricity which flows to the skin when we sweat). Increased activity in these areas suggests increased stress, which means the subject might be lying. Lie detectors have been widely used in the USA since the 1950s, but they remain controversial and their results are not always accepted by courts. Nowadays, polygraphs are used by the US police, the CIA and the FBI to screen job applicants, but private employers are not allowed to subject job candidates to polygraph examinations, except in a few high-security industries like pharmaceuticals and money manufacturing.

3 YOUR VOICE

Cheaper and faster than a polygraph, the Voice Stress Analyser or VSA, is based on the premise that our voice changes when we are under stress – when we're lying, for example. The VSA detects the changes and will work on a telephone, tape-recording or from the next room via a wireless mike or bug. The analyser monitors the subject's voice patterns and inflections, and electronically evaluates their relative stress patterns to determine if they are lying or not. Now you can even buy a 'Truth Phone', so when your other half rings to say they're working late at the office, you can immediately know if it's true or not! Research indicates this technology is not very precise at picking up deceitfulness.

4 HESITATION

The period of time between the last word of an investigator's question and the first word of the subject's response is known as 'response latency'. Research tells us that the average response latency for subjects who are telling the truth is 0.5 seconds, whereas the average latency for liars is 1.5 seconds. This is because the subject is mentally considering whether to tell the truth, part of the truth or a complete lie. Latencies of two or three seconds should be regarded as highly suspicious; in other words, he who hesitates ... is probably lying!

5 BLUSHING

According to researchers in the USA, when someone lies, you get an instantaneous warming around the eyes, commonly known as 'blushing'. Dr James Levine of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, speculates that people who lie are afraid of getting caught. 'That fear triggers a primitive response to run away. Blood goes to the eyes so that the liar can more efficiently map out an escape route,' he says. A high-definition, heat-sensing camera can detect such blushes. The new technology has proved more reliable than conventional lie detectors and could offer a new tool for mass security screening at places like airports, office buildings and high-profile events.

Reading and speaking

1 Work in groups and discuss the questions.

- Do you know anyone who is a habitual liar? What kind of things do they say?
- In which jobs is it particularly important that you are trustworthy?
- Are there any jobs in which it is an advantage to be a good liar?
- What characteristics does a good liar need?

2 Work in pairs. List ways in which people often give away the fact that they are lying.

not looking you in the eye, ...

3 Read the article about lying. How many of the ways you listed are in the article? What other ways are mentioned?

3 Work in pairs. Read the article again and decide which statements are true. Give reasons. More than one answer may be true.

- Lying makes it harder to spit out the grains of rice.
 - Lying makes it easier to spit out the grains of rice.
 - The rice makes your mouth go dry.
- Lie detectors can only work if used voluntarily.
 - Lie detectors rely on various forms of physical data.
 - Lie detectors are reliable in the vast majority of cases.
- You don't have to be in the same room as the subject to use the VSA.
 - The VSA measures how stressed you are rather than whether or not you're lying.
 - The main advantages of the VSA are its cheapness and reliability.
- People hesitate before lying because they need to prepare their lie.
 - The latency period more than doubles when people are lying.
 - The less hesitation there is, the less likely it is that you're lying.
- People blush as the result of a primitive 'fight or flight' instinct.
 - Special machinery is needed to detect these blushes.
 - This technology is already in use for security screening at airports.

4 Think of a word/phrase that could replace the following words/phrases in the article without changing the meaning.

- examination (section 1)
- hand (section 1)
- bodily (section 2)
- under duress (section 2)
- premise (section 3)
- other half (section 3)
- picking up (section 4)
- mentally considering (section 4)
- getting (section 5)
- high-profile (section 5)

5 Work in groups and discuss the questions.

- Did you find any of the techniques surprising?
- Which seem to be the most/least reliable?
- In what circumstances do you think such tests should be used? What objections can you think of?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you were telling the truth and nobody believed you?

Grammar review

Ellipsis and substitution

1a Read the conversation and shorten the parts in bold. You may have to change some of the words.

- A: Have you finished with the paper?
 B: Hang on – I'm just reading an article about lie detectors.
 A: Oh yes, ¹**that article about lie detectors**. I started reading it this morning, but ²**I didn't finish reading it**. Is it interesting?
 B: Yes. Apparently, you can tell someone's lying because they can't help blushing.
 A: ³**Do they realise they're blushing?**
 B: No, ⁴**I don't think they realise they are blushing**. Tell me, do you ever blush when you talk to me?
 A: No, of course ⁵**I don't ever blush when I talk to you**. That's because I never lie to you.
 B: Is that true?
 A: ⁶**Of course it's true**. ⁷**I never lie to you and you never lie to me**, right?
 B: So, why are you blushing now, then?

b 10.4 Listen and check.

2 Who do you and they underlined refer to in the conversation? Could you substitute these with any other pronouns?

> Grammar extension bank, pages 148–152