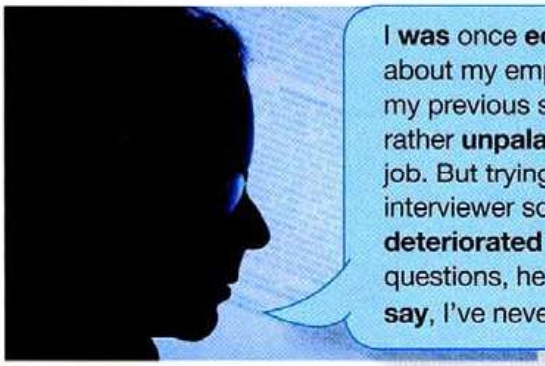
# 53 I can **talk about truth and lies**

## A A story about lying



I **was** once **economical with the truth** on a job application form. I lied about my employment record, **talked up** my skills, and **embellished** my previous salary by a few thousand. Oh, and I **glossed over** one rather **unpalatable** truth, **namely** that I'd been sacked from my last job. But trying to **sustain** the lies at the interview was a nightmare. My interviewer soon **detected** something was wrong, and a friendly chat **deteriorated** into an awful **interrogation**. And after a series of awkward questions, he **caught me out**; I felt utterly **humiliated**. **Needless to say**, I've never done it since.

### Glossary

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|---|---|
| **be economical with the truth** | say things that are only partially true (used as a euphemism for 'lie': see page 203). |
| **talk sth up** | describe sth in a way that makes it sound better than it is. |
| **embellish sth** | make a statement or story more interesting by adding details that are not always true. |
| **gloss over sth** | deliberately avoid talking about sth unpleasant, or say as little as possible about it. |
| **unpalatable** | unpleasant and hard to accept. |
| **namely** | used to introduce more exact information about a subject. |
| **sustain sth** | make sth continue for some time. |
| **detect sth** | discover or notice sth, especially sth that is hard to see or hear. |
| **deteriorate** | become worse. **deterioration** N. |
| **interrogation** | the process of asking sb a lot of questions, especially in an aggressive way. **interrogate sb** V. |
| **catch sb out** | make sb make a mistake which shows they have been lying. |
| **humiliated** | feeling ashamed because you have lost the respect of other people. **humiliate sb** V. **humiliation** N. |
| **needless to say** | obviously. |

**1** Complete the words and circle the stressed syllable.

▶ e c o n o m i c a l
1 embel_____
2 s__st__n
3 h__m__l__ted
4 int____og___ion
5 int____og____
6 unp____t__ble
7 d__t__ct
8 n__m__ly

**2** Complete the dialogue.

A Did you know that Johnny Savill's got the sack? Evidently he was, well, let's just say he was '(1)_____ with the truth' about a few things.

B Well, I can't say I'm surprised. When I worked with him he often (2)_____ things up, especially when our sales were down. And I think he was a bit dishonest – he would (3)_____ the facts, or (4)_____ over the things he didn't want you to know about. And his relationship with Mrs Kilgarriff has really (5)_____ lately because she was obviously suspicious of him.

A Yeah, evidently he was called in to see her yesterday and she virtually (6)_____ him, asking him loads of difficult questions, and eventually she (7)_____ him out. He must have felt really (8)_____ – he's a very proud guy. In the end, he just couldn't (9)_____ all those lies. Well who could, faced with Mrs Kilgarriff? But (10)_____ say, I'm not sorry for him. He deserved it.

Remember to test yourself