



When is it okay to lie?

GETTING ORIENTED

Here is some information that might be helpful to students less familiar with the topic.

President George Washington

George Washington was elected as the first president of the United States in 1789. He is considered one of the founding fathers of the United States and often referred to as the 'father of the country.' He served two terms as president, then stepped aside and retired from politics. President Washington first gained fame when he was placed in charge of the newly created Continental Army and defeated the British in the Revolutionary War, which lasted from 1775 to 1783.



Saddam Hussein

Saddam Hussein was the president of Iraq from 1979 to 2003. People often referred to him as a dictator, someone who has total power and stays in power by using force against others. In 2003, the United States invaded Iraq, claiming that Hussein was hiding weapons of mass destruction; no such weapons were ever found, and the U.N. Commission headed by Hans Blix reported that no biological or nuclear weapons remained in Iraq. Saddam Hussein was captured in 2003 and then executed in 2006 for participating in killing Iraqi citizens.

President George W. Bush

President George W. Bush was the 43rd president of the United States and served two terms. Prior to his election, President Bush was in the oil business, co-owned the baseball team the Texas Rangers, and had been elected as governor of Texas. He directed the military to invade both Afghanistan (2001) and Iraq (2003) while he was president.

Christopher Columbus

It has long been taught in schools across the United States that the Italian explorer, Christopher Columbus, 'discovered' America in 1492 while looking for a new trade route. This story has been promoted throughout U.S. history. Yet, Columbus never stepped foot on the land we know today as the United States; he first landed in what is now the Bahamas and then went to Hispaniola. Furthermore, people had already been living in the Americas for thousands of years before 1492. Columbus Day, a national holiday in the United States, has helped integrate these lies into our national identity. Columbus' brutal actions and enslavement of people in the Caribbean Islands are often not mentioned in school. However, some states have changed the name of the holiday to reflect these facts, renaming it Native American Day or Indigenous Peoples' Day.





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EVIDENCE AND PERSPECTIVES

	<i>Some may have this view:</i>	<i>But others may think:</i>
Children	<p>Many children believe it is okay to lie to protect the feelings of their friends. Some children may also think it is okay to lie to keep from getting in trouble, something most children have done. Some even believe that a true friend will always lie for them to keep their secrets and see it as an act that symbolizes their friendship.</p>	<p>Many children learn that lying is wrong and realize that, once someone has lied to you, you can no longer trust what he or she says. Also, children may realize that adults respect honesty. If you are considered a liar, adults will not trust you or give you the freedom and responsibility you want. Finally, some children believe that a true friend is one who will always tell you the truth.</p>
Parents	<p>Some parents believe it is necessary to lie to their children as a way of protecting them. They see these lies as a natural part of parenting because children are not emotionally ready for some hard truths. Other parents find lies helpful in controlling their children, like telling them if they don't go to bed the Boogie Man will get them.</p>	<p>Some parents believe that a good parent should always model good behavior and never lie to their children or others. These parents believe that children must learn about the world from true information and that lying to children teaches them, in turn, to lie. They believe that, in order to raise strong children, you must be honest about the world and how things work.</p>
Politicians	<p>Many politicians use lies to get elected. They may be covering up past mistakes, making promises they cannot keep, or creating fear about what will happen if voters choose a different candidate. For example, a politician may claim to support an issue but then not act on it after being elected. Once in office, some politicians will continue to lie to get what they want.</p>	<p>Some politicians believe honesty is the best way to lead, even if it upsets people. They know that voters want someone to trust, and they might also worry about being caught out in a lie. This may become more true now that it is so easy to record and share what someone says or does.</p>

<p>Additional Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Studies have reported that people cannot detect if someone is lying just by watching his or her eyes. ✓ Children can start lying as young as the age of two. ✓ Most people do not plan on lying ahead of time; it often happens when they feel that they are under pressure. ✓ Lie detector results are not allowed as evidence in court because they are not a fool-proof method of detecting lying. ✓ One study found that not lying and always telling the truth improved both mental and physical health. 	<p>Information about Lying https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/06/lying-hoax-fibs-science/</p> <p>Polygraph Tests https://www.hg.org/legal-articles/is-a-polygraph-test-admissible-as-evidence-31737</p> <p>Lying and Health https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2012/08/lying-less.aspx</p>
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ANNOTATIONS FOR TEACHERS

Features of Academic Text: Using Memes

Students may know memes solely as humorous and widely-shared images or short video clips on the internet. However, a meme is more broadly defined as an idea, behavior, or style that is passed from person to person within a culture. Such an idea could be in the form of an image, audio, text, etc.

In this particular Word Generation unit, there are several text memes. These text memes can be useful for discussing cultural 'truths' and particular elements of social understanding. For instance, the phrase "the customer is always right" expresses the truth that businesses must keep their customers happy to make money.

Ask students to identify the text memes in this passage (two examples are highlighted) and reflect on when they may have learned them. See if students can come up with some other memes that would relate to this text. For example, start with a meme for "social lies" - a possible meme would be "little white lies."

We all know the story about George Washington's honesty. As a little boy George chopped down a cherry tree with his shiny new axe. When confronted by his father he immediately admitted his guilt, stating, "**I cannot tell a lie.**" However, many historians believe this never happened, so the tale itself is a lie!

Children are often told, "**Honesty is the best policy.**" They are taught that lying is highly **unethical**. Once someone **conceives** of you as a liar, trust may be permanently lost. Everything you say to that person is suspect. Lying is not just unethical; it is also bad for your reputation.

Nonetheless, research shows that people lie frequently, and that about half of lies are not **detected**. What do you do if a friend asks if you like her new haircut, and you don't? What if your mom spends hours cooking and then you hate the meal? Many people think that lying may be ethical if it protects people's feelings. These "social lies" are **rationalized** as polite.

Sometimes historical truth is suppressed or twisted to support national pride. For example, Christopher Columbus engaged in many brutal practices toward Native Americans, but U.S. history portrays him as a hero for "discovering America." President Bush justified the 2003 war with Iraq by saying that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. No such weapons were ever found. Misrepresentations like these aim to simplify history for young children and keep us patriotic and ready to serve our country.

Sometimes people lie to **benefit** themselves. Denying that you wrote a note on the bathroom wall when you really did is unethical, but lying to protect your classmate's feelings is friendly and polite. It seems that our ideas about lying are flexible, and depend on who benefits from the lie.

Imagine that your friend Jared showed you a hunting knife that his grandfather had given him. You promised not to tell anyone he had it, because knives aren't allowed at school. You agreed to keep his secret because you knew how proud the knife made him. However, later the knife was found on the playground. Your teacher asked you, "Do you know whose knife this is?" How would you answer? Would you lie to protect your friend? Or would you tell your teacher, which means you lied to Jared about keeping his secret? When is it okay to lie?



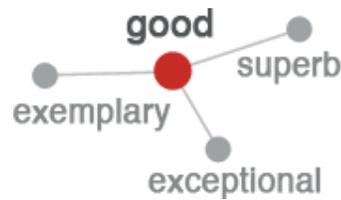
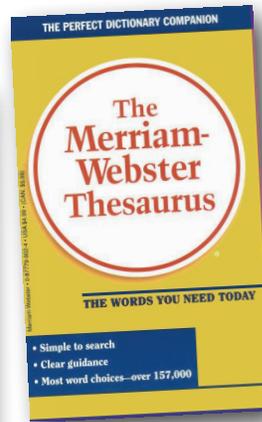
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GENERATING WORDS

Using a Thesaurus

Before you start: A thesaurus is a book that provides a collection of words that mean the same as other words, or a collection of synonyms. Whereas a dictionary gives the definitions of words, a thesaurus suggests other words that can be used. Sometimes, if you are having difficulty understanding a word even after you have looked up the word in a dictionary, you may want to look it up in a thesaurus. The thesaurus may give you synonyms that are more recognizable to you.

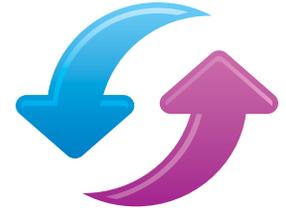
You can buy a thesaurus just as you can buy a dictionary. You can also look up a thesaurus online and find the word you are looking for.



Look up each of this week's words with a thesaurus. Notice if any of the synonyms have roots or affixes you have learned in your vocabulary lessons.

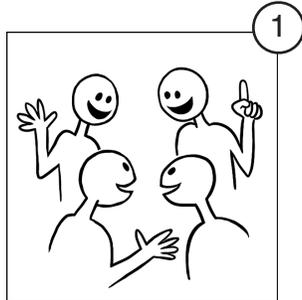
Write two synonyms for each word and a sentence using the original focus word.

Focus Word	Synonym #1	Synonym #2	Sentence
unethical	corrupt	illegal	It is unethical for police officers to accept bribes.
conceive			
benefit			
detect			
rationalize			



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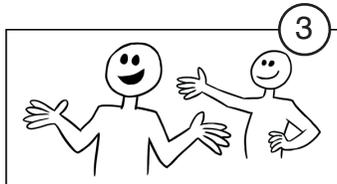
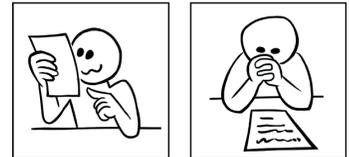
DEVELOPING DISCUSSIONS



Step One: In a group of four, brainstorm as many **PRO** and **CON** arguments for the topic: *Is it ever okay to lie?*

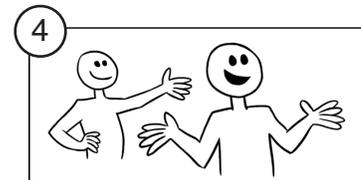


Step Two: All group members memorize the list of **PROs** and **CONs**.



Step Three: Divide the groups of four into pairs and have a discussion by doing the following:

1. One partner is the “director;” the other is the “actor.”
2. The director claps and says, “Is it ever okay to lie?: **PRO!**”
3. The actor gives 1-2 **PRO** situations where or reasons why lying is okay.
4. The director claps and says “**CON!**,” and the actor uses a transition like “*However...*,” “*On the other hand...*,” or “*Then again...*” and gives a reason or two why lying is never okay.
5. The director claps again and says “**PRO!**,” and the actor uses a different transition and gives more **PRO** reasons. Repeat.
6. When finished, the director paraphrases what he or she heard and tries to guess which side the actor is really on.



Step Four: Switch roles and repeat **Step Three**.

What the **ACTOR** might say:

- One reason that it is okay to lie is...
- Another reason is...
- Additionally, telling lies can...
- However, on the other hand...
- It is better to always tell the truth because...
- Furthermore, we should never lie since...

What the **DIRECTOR** might say:

- Pro! or Con!
- What I heard you say is...
- I believe you said...
- Correct me if I'm wrong, but I thought I heard you say...
- Based on what I heard, I think that you really believe that...