



## Honesty is Still the Best Policy (Part Two)

### *Third paragraph*

*You are the “teacher”. Read this part to your partner:*

A few months ago I was on a train with a friend of mine. We were returning home from a short trip to the center of town, and we had a lot of shopping bags with us. We chatted all along the trip, so we hardly noticed the sign of our home station until the train was ready to shut the doors. When we finally understood it was time to get off, we picked up our bags and dashed out of the wagon. We stood on the platform totally out of breath. When the train left, I suddenly realized that I didn't have my purse. I only remembered leaving it on the seat next to me. I was very upset and said that this was the end of the world. My friend kept telling me that I would find my purse again, but I didn't believe a word of what she said. We walked home and I told her that I would never see that purse again. Deep inside I wanted someone to find the purse and have the decency to give it back to me.

*Now read this same part to your partner leaving pauses for him/her to repeat:*

A few months ago / I was on a train / with a friend of mine. We were returning home / from a short trip / to the center of town, / and we had a lot of shopping bags with us. / We chatted all along the trip, / so we hardly noticed / the sign of our home station / until the train was ready / to shut the doors. / When we finally understood / it was time to get off, / we picked up our bags / and dashed out of the wagon. / We stood on the platform / totally out of breath. / When the train left, / I suddenly realized / that I didn't have my purse. / I only remembered leaving it / on the seat next to me. / I was very upset / and said that this was the end of the world. / My friend kept telling me / that I would find my purse again, / but I didn't believe a word / of what she said. / We walked home / and I told her / that I would never see / that purse again. / Deep inside / I wanted someone to find the purse / and have the decency / to give it back to me.

*Ask your partner the questions below. (Your partner should try to answer in complete sentences and use many of the words in parentheses. In case of problems, give him/her some hints.)*

1. What happened to the speaker a few months ago? (She was on a train with a friend of hers)
2. Where had they been and what had they been doing? (center of town to do some shopping)
3. Why didn't they notice the sign of their home station? (they were chatting)

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4. What did they do just before the doors shut? (they dashed out of the wagon)

*This text by QualityTime-ESL was inspired by a short excerpt from “Monologues” (Longman)*



5. When the train left what did the speaker realize? (she didn't have her purse)
6. What was her reaction? (she was very upset and said that this was the end of the world)
7. What did her friend keep telling her? (that she would find her purse again)
8. What did she secretly hope? (that someone would find the purse and give it back to her)
9. What finally happened? (she received a message that someone left the purse at the station)

*Now exchange this paper. Your partner will become the "teacher".*

*You are the "teacher". Read this part to your partner:*

### ***Fourth (and last) paragraph***

When we finally got home there was a message on my answering machine. Someone had seen me leaving the wagon without my purse. That person had gone straight to the station at the next stop and left off the purse. I couldn't believe my ears. I would get my purse back! But most importantly I realized that there are a lot of people, who still believe "Honesty is the best policy."

*Now read this same part to your partner leaving pauses for him/her to repeat:*

When we finally got home / there was a message / on my answering machine. / Someone had seen me leaving the wagon / without my purse. That person / had gone straight to the police station / at the next stop / and left off the purse. / I couldn't believe my ears. / I would get my purse back! / But most importantly / I realized / that there are a lot of people, / who still believe / "honesty is the best policy."

*Ask your partner the following questions. (Your partner should try to answer in complete sentences and use many of the words in parentheses. In case of problems, give him/her some hints.)*

9. What happened when they got home? (there was a message on the answering machine)
10. Who had seen her leaving the wagon without her purse? (someone)
11. Where had that person gone at the next stop? (to the police station)
12. What had that person done? (left off/left the purse)
13. What couldn't the speaker believe? (she couldn't believe her ears)
14. What did she realize? (there are a lot of people, who believe "honesty is the best policy.")

*Finally with a different partner the discuss debate themes suggested by your teacher.*

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