

Honesty is Still the Best Policy

Part 1

I _____ on the Internet the _____ day that we all _____ an amazing number of _____ every _____. According to the article we very _____ say exactly what we think. In most cases we prefer to _____ the truth _____ hurt other _____ feelings. Usually we believe we are _____ polite or respectful of _____ but in _____ fact we simply cannot _____ telling others _____ they do not _____. Are people really ready for the _____ and nothing but the truth? _____ it _____ to tell a “little white _____” or be _____ if there is no _____?

We live in a _____ where dishonesty is _____ taken for _____. We _____ to tell lies. We expect them to _____ promises that they will never be able _____. We expect businessmen to try to _____ television viewers by _____ deceitful advertising. We expect students _____ by using _____ in their written work. We even expect pollsters to give _____ results of _____ in order to influence our opinions _____. But _____ terrible to _____ we _____ in a world where _____ seems to be honest? _____ my opinion _____ are _____ honest than we expect them _____.

Part 2

A few months _____ I _____ on a train with a friend _____. We were returning _____ from a short _____ the center of town, and we _____ a lot of shopping

_____ with us. We _____ all _____ the trip, so we _____ the sign of our home station _____ the train was ready to _____. When we finally _____ it was time to get off, we _____ our bags and _____ of the wagon. We _____ on the platform totally _____. When the train _____ I suddenly realized that I didn't have _____. I only remembered _____ it on the _____ me. I was _____ and said that this was the _____. My friend _____ that I would find my purse again, but I didn't believe a word _____. We _____ and I told her that I _____ that purse again. _____ inside I _____ someone _____ the purse and _____ to _____ back to me.

When we _____ home there was a _____ for _____. Someone _____ the wagon _____ my purse. That person _____ the station at the _____ stop and _____ the purse. I _____ believe my _____. I would get my purse _____! But _____ I realized that there _____ who _____ believe that "Honesty is the _____."

VOCABULARY to be learned and used often

- **a friend of mine**: notice the possessive form "mine"
- **a great number of people**: many people
- **a little white lie**: a lie that doesn't seem serious
- **a lot of...** (with a verb in the plural)
- **a survey**: a gathering of a sample of data or opinions considered to be representative of a whole.
- **about to leave** as in "**the train was about to leave, when ...**": the train was on the point of leaving/on the verge of leaving...
- **according to** (someone) N.B. never say: ~~according to me~~
- **broadcasting**: from the verb "to broadcast" meaning to transmit a signal

- **chat**: converse in a friendly way
- **cheat**: to cheat someone or to cheat **on** something)
- **dash**: to hurry
- **deceitful**: very dishonest
- **decency**: honesty
- **expect (someone to do something)**: anticipate someone will do something or that something will happen
- **face telling someone something**: to have the courage to tell someone directly the truth
- **fair**: just (e.g. fair play)
- **get my purse back**: find my purse again, have it returned to me
- **get off**: get out of a train, bus or plane
- **give back (gave back / given back)**: return to owner
- **go (went) straight to**: to go directly to...
- **go home**: go to where one lives
- **honesty**: the opposite is "dishonesty" (N.B. silent "h": we do not pronounce it, also a silent /h/ in "honor", "hour")
- **huge**: enormous, very big
- **in actual fact**: really, in truth
- **in most cases**: very often, more often than not
- **in my opinion**: according to my ideas (Never say: "according to me".)
- **keep telling me**: to continue telling me
- **leave off**: to deposit (an object)
- **lies**: statements that are not truthful
- **more or less**: approximately
- **most importantly**: above all
- **newspaper**: printed paper with the news
- **out of breath**: having difficulty breathing
- **pick up**: take from the ground, from a chair, seat or table
- **policy**: a course of action, guiding principle, or procedure considered advantageous
- **politicians**: a person actively involved in politics, who holds or seeks a political office.
- **pollster**: a person who does public-opinion surveys
- **purse**: a woman's handbag (U.S.)
- **rather than**: meaning "and not..." or "instead of..."
- **remember doing something (+ING)**: remember a past action; N.B. "remember to do something" involves an action in the future or at least occurring after the act of remembering
- **seat**: a designated place in a train, bus, plane, car, hall
- **seldom**: rarely, not often
- **still**: even as in "even today" or "including the present time"
- **take advantage of**: to profit from
- **take for granted that... or to take it for granted that...**: to consider as true, real, or normal
- **tell the truth**: to say what is true; the opposite of "to tell a lie"
- **upset**: sad, agitated, disconcerted

- **whenever they can:** each time they can...
- **whole:** entire
- **without:** the opposite of “with”
- **wonder if / wonder whether...:** to ask oneself if / whether

Structures to be learned

I read on the Internet / read in the newspaper / heard on the radio / saw on television the other day... (a way to talk about the recent past without saying when exactly)

whenever they can (each time they can...)

there are... (to be compared with “they are...”, “they’re...”)

we expect people to tell... (we anticipate that people will tell...)

I wonder if... or “*I wonder whether*” (“I ask myself.”)

to take advantage of someone (to gain profit from someone)

a friend of mine (Remember we also say: a friend of *his / hers / ours / yours / theirs*)

he went straight to... (he went directly to...)

more than...

rather than...

Structures not in the monolog to be learned

- **Future conditional—probable event**

If I pass all my exams, I'll be very happy.

I think I will pass the exams. They are in the future, so I have a chance of passing them.

- **Hypothetical conditional—improbable event**

If I found a \$100 (hundred dollar) bill in the street, I would go to the police.

I don't think I will find a \$100 bill in the street. It could possibly happen, but the chances of finding a \$100 bill in the street are very slight. The probability is very uncertain.

- **Impossible hypothetical conditional—impossible event**

If I had found a \$100 bill in the street, I would have gone to the police.

I didn't find a \$100 bill in the street in the past, but I am thinking about what my reaction would have been if I had found one.