

BEST QUOTES ON HONESTY

When truth is buried, it grows, it chokes, it gathers such explosive force that on the day it breaks out, it blows everything up with it.

--Emile Zola

The truth might hurt for a little while...but a lie hurts forever.

—Ged Backland

A mistake is something that happens accidentally. Cheating and lying are not accidents; they are choices.

—Internet Meme

Be honest. This applies to every area of your life. Sketchiness is not an attractive trait. No more trying to cover up your baggage, sweeping things under the rug, withholding truth, blatant lying, or even telling seemingly 'harmless' white lies or half-truths – release the need to lie completely! Start NOW.

—Alaric Hutchinson

The big problem with lying is that it becomes an addiction. When you get away with a lie it often drives you to continue your deceptions, and in the process, we ruin relationships, hurt others, lose our integrity, and lose our peace. Truth becomes a feared enemy of the liar. It's a sick and tragic cycle that doesn't ever have a happy ending.

—Dawson McAllister

What you don't see with your eyes, don't invent with your mouth.

--Jewish Proverb

If you want to help someone, tell him the truth. If you want to help yourself, tell him what he wants to hear.

—Thomas Sowell

Your life is a trajectory. Every choice you make alters that trajectory, in a positive or negative way. Will you categorize that dinner with friends as a business expense? Will you be honest with your daughter? Will you take more credit than you're due? These are just the small questions that we face every day, and little by little, the answers influence the trajectory of our lives and beings.

—Donald Van de Mark

I have long since come to believe that people never mean half of what they say, and that it is best to disregard their talk and judge only their actions.

--Dorothy Day

A recent survey revealed the following facts about student cheating: 78 percent of the students surveyed had cheated in school, and 93 percent weren't caught. Reasons for cheating?

Didn't seem like a big deal—66%

Competition for grades—44%

Didn't think I'd get caught—16%

To get into a good college—12%

— *Who's Who Among
American High
School Students*

When I went to school, all I had was a pencil and the kid next to me. And I think if he'd really applied himself, I could have been somebody.

—Unknown

Being honest may not get you a lot of FRIENDS but it'll always get you the RIGHT ONES.

—John Lennon

The law requires a paper towel ad to be scrupulously honest, but allows political candidates to lie without reproach. What's wrong with this picture?

--Jef I. Richards

Women lie about weight, age and appearance, while men lie about achievements, connections and actions. Women think lies should end where love begins, and men see no particular connection between lying and loving. Women lie to ingratiate themselves—'It's Okay, leave ESPN on' or 'Of course I want you to spend time with your friends'—while men lie to avoid confrontations or make power plays.

Men are superior at boasting (known in literary circles as narrative storytelling).

And women are superior at the constant stream of half-lies that soothe social interplay. While usually altruistic, these feminine lies can also reflect malicious glee.

('Wow, I didn't know culottes were back. And you found some in seersucker!')

Women speak more honestly about people behind their backs, while men consider such blunt assessments catty or disloyal. While they feel betrayed by men's black lies, women spend a lot of time coaching men to tell them white lies, such as: 'Yes, your boss is a jerk' and 'No, you are not too fat for those pants.'

—Maureen Dowd

I would rather be the man who bought the Brooklyn Bridge than the man who sold it.

--Will Rogers

Dishonesty is a part of human nature. The only difference among individuals is the degree to which one is dishonest.

--Dan L. Miller

There is no vice so mean, so pitiful, so contemptible; and he who permits himself to tell a lie once, finds it much easier to do it a second and third time, till at length it becomes habitual; he tells lies without attending to it, and truths without the world's believing him. This falsehood of the tongue leads to that of the heart, and in time depraves all its good dispositions.

--Thomas Jefferson

Nothing is rarer than a solitary lie; for lies breed like toads; you cannot tell one but out it comes with a hundred young ones on its back.

--Washington Allston

George Washington and the cherry tree has done more harm...than any other moral tale in the whole of literature....And the amusing part of the whole thing is that the story of the cherry tree is an absolute myth.

--Oscar Wilde

A man who lies to himself, and believes his own lies, becomes unable to recognize truth, either in himself or in anyone else, and he ends up losing respect for himself and for others. When he has no respect for anyone, he can no longer love, and in him, he yields to his impulses, indulges in the lowest form of pleasure, and behaves in the end like an animal in satisfying his vices. And it all comes from lying — to others and to yourself.

—Fyodor Dostoyevsky

One of the great self-deceptions--and one of the great foolishnesses--is to tell yourself, Only I will know. Only you will know that you are a liar; only you will know you deal unethically with people who trust you; only you will know you have no intention of honoring your promise. Whose knowledge or judgment do you imagine is more important? It is precisely your own ego from which there is no escape.

—Nathaniel Branden

One falsehood spoils a thousand truths.

--Ashanti Proverb

The truth is always the strongest argument.

--Sophocles

For truth there is no deadline.

--Heywood Broun

You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time; but you cannot fool all of the people all the time.

--Abraham Lincoln

A lie never lives to be old.

--Sophocles

All faults may be forgiven of him who has perfect candor.

--Walt Whitman

The cruelest lies are often told in silence.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

A liar will not be believed, even when he speaks the truth.

--Aesop

Lying is an indispensable part of making life tolerable.

--Bergen Evans

It is better to suffer wrong than to do it, and happier to be sometimes cheated than not to trust.

--Samuel Johnson

The man who speaks the truth is always at ease.

--Persian Proverb

'Tis my opinion every man cheats in his way, and he is only honest who is not discovered.

--Susannah Centlivre

I have known a vast quantity of nonsense talked about bad men not looking you in the face. Don't trust that conventional idea. Dishonesty will stare honesty out of countenance, any day in the week, if there is anything to be got by it.

--Charles Dickens

The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest.

--E. B. White

Never open the door to a little vice lest a great one enter with it.

--Proverb

Good and evil are equally distributed across the economic spectrum and not particular to the wealthy or the poor.

--Paul G. Schervish

The darkest hour in the history of any young man is when he sits down to study how to get money without honestly earning it.

--Horace Greeley

The rich middle-and high-school kids...show higher rates of alcohol and drug abuse on average than poor kids, and much higher rates than the national norm. They report clinically significant depression or anxiety or delinquent behaviors at a rate two to three times the national average. Starting in the seventh grade, the rich cohort includes just as many kids who display troubling levels of delinquency as the poor cohort, although the rule-breaking takes different forms. The poor kids, for example, fight and carry weapons more frequently....The rich kids, meanwhile, report higher levels of lying, cheating, and theft.

—Hanna Rosin citing a
Yale Psychiatry
Department Study
by Suniya Luthar

The more expensive a school is, the more crooks it has — I'm not kidding.

—J. D. Salinger

I have an almost naive belief that the best way to win an argument or improve the world is to put more truth out there.

--David Corn

There is no power on earth more formidable than the truth.

—Margaret Lee Runbeck

A lie would have no sense unless the truth were felt dangerous.

—Alfred Adler

One who deceives will always find those who allow themselves to be deceived.

--Niccolo Machiavelli

To conceal anything from those to whom I am attached, is not in my nature. I can never close my lips where I have opened my heart.

--Charles Dickens

Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts.

--Daniel Patrick
Moynihan

I would give no thought of what the world might say of me; I could only transmit to posterity the reputation of an honest man.

--Sam Houston

Honesty—Fear of being caught.

—Unknown

The work by Bella DePaulo, Ph.D., a psychologist at the University of Virginia, confirms Nietzsche's assertion that the lie is a condition of life. In a 1996 study, DePaulo and her colleagues had 147 people between the ages of 18 and 71 keep a diary of all the falsehoods they told over the course of a week. Most people, she found, lie once or twice a day—almost as often as they snack from the refrigerator or brush their teeth. Both men and women lie in approximately a fifth of their social exchanges lasting 10 or more minutes; over the course of a week they deceive about 30 percent of those with whom they interact one-on-one. Furthermore, some types of relationships, such as those between parents and teens, are virtual magnets for deception: 'College students lie to their mothers in one out of two conversations,' reports DePaulo. (Incidentally, when researchers refer to lying, they don't include the mindless pleasantries or polite equivocations we offer each other in passing, such as 'I'm fine, thanks' or 'No trouble at all.' An 'official' lie actually misleads, deliberately conveying a false impression. So complimenting a friend's awful haircut or telling a creditor that the check is in the mail both qualify.)

—Allison Kornet

That's one of the troubles with a lie. You've got to keep adding to it to make it believable to people.

—Bertrand R. Brinley

In its natural state, the child tells the literal truth because it is too naive to think of anything else. Blurting out the complete truth is considered adorable in the young, right smack up to the moment that the child says, 'Mommy, is this the fat lady you can't stand?'

--Alan Clark

The end of an ox is beef, and the end of a lie is grief.

--Madagascan Proverb

A lie is a temporary solution to a permanent problem.

--Terry McMillan

The income tax has made more liars out of the American people than golf has. Even when you make a tax form out on the level, you don't know when it's through, if you are a crook or a martyr.

--Will Rogers

People start to lie more once they start to care less.

—Rain Cooper

The man who is always ready to believe what is told him will never do well, especially a businessman.

--Gaius Petronius

Delusions, errors and lies are like huge, gaudy vessels, the rafters of which are rotten and worm-eaten, and those who embark in them are fated to be shipwrecked.

--Buddha

I believe, absolutely, that truth is the strongest and most powerful weapon a man can use, whether he is fighting for a reform or fighting for a sale.

--Arthur Dunn

Lies are like Legos. You snap a few together here, a few more over there; little by little, bit by bit, they accumulate, until suddenly what was minuscule looms huge.

--Julia Keller

Falsehood is the jockey of misfortune.

--Jean Giraudoux

Integrity is one of several paths, it distinguishes itself from the others because it is the right path, and the only one upon which you will never get lost.

—M. H. McKee

Those who preserve their integrity remain unshaken by the storms of daily life. They do not stir like leaves on a tree or follow the herd where it runs. In their mind remains the ideal attitude and conduct of living. This is not something given to them by others. It is their roots...it is a strength that exists deep within them.

--Native American
Saying

Honesty isn't any policy at all; it's a state of mind or it isn't honesty.

--Eugene L'Hote

Falsehoods not only disagree with truths, but usually quarrel among themselves.

--Daniel Webster

Truth will rise above falsehood as oil above water.

--Miguel de Cervantes

There is no power on earth more formidable than the truth.

-- Margaret Lee Runbeck

Free and fair discussion will ever be found the firmest friend to truth.

--George Campbell

Truth, when not sought after, rarely comes to light.

--Holmes

Truth and physic, two unpalatable things, are never well received, though administered with good intention.

--Countess of Blessington

Kings never hear the voice of truth until they are dethroned, nor beauties until they have abdicated their charms.

--Countess of Blessington

Politeness is one half good nature and the other half good lying.
--Mary Wilson Little

Truth, like surgery, may hurt, but it cures.
--Han Suyin

The greatest liar is he who talks most of himself.
—Chinese Proverb

A man who won't lie to a woman has very little consideration for her feelings.
—Olin Miller

How dreadful knowledge of the truth can be when there's no help in truth!
--Sophocles

The worthiest people are the most injured by slander, as is the best fruit which the birds have been pecking at.
--Jonathan Swift

People become house builders through building houses, harp players through playing the harp. We grow to be just by doing things which are just.
--Aristotle

If rascals knew the advantages of virtue they would become honest men out of rascality.
--Benjamin Franklin

A little truth makes the lie go down.
--Italian Proverb

All truths are not to be told.
--George Herbert

Follow not truth too near the heels, lest it dash out thy teeth.
--George Herbert

He that will steal an egg will steal an ox.
--English Proverb

I never give them hell; I just tell the truth and they think it is hell.

--Harry S. Truman

A sucker is born every minute, and two to trick him.

--Wilson Mizner

There is hardly any man so strict as not to vary a little from truth when he is to make an excuse.

—Lord Halifax

A little inaccuracy sometimes saves tons of explanations.

--Saki

There are 869 different forms of lying, but only one of them has been squarely forbidden: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

--Mark Twain

A child who fears excessive retaliation for even minor offenses will learn very early on that to lie is to protect himself....If your child intuits that you will react very punitively to his wrongdoing, he may be tempted to lie and may become, as time goes on, a habitual liar.

--Lawrence Balter

The childless experts on child raising also bring tears of laughter to my eyes when they say, 'I love children because they're so honest.' There is not an agent in the CIA or the KGB who knows how to conceal the theft of food, how to fake being asleep, or how to forge a parent's signature like a child.

--Bill Cosby

If a man tells a woman she is beautiful, she will overlook most of his other lies.

--Ashwin Sanghi

Flattery is the fine art of telling a person just what he thinks of himself.

--Dale Carnegie

There's nothing like frankness if you want to create your own lack of opportunities.

--Unknown

The man who says what he thinks is sometimes fearless, sometimes artless, but always friendless.

--Unknown

The person who always says what he thinks, doesn't always think.

--Unknown

God help the honest; the dishonest always help themselves.

--Unknown

We tell lies when we are afraid... afraid of what we don't know, afraid of what others will think, afraid of what will be found out about us. But every time we tell a lie, the thing that we fear grows stronger.

—Tad Williams

The word *love* is used in more lies than any other. How often a guy will say to a girl (or vice versa), *I love you*, simply to get the other person emotionally stirred-up, so they can be more easily manipulated.

—Dawson McAllister

Many times, a person will lie because of pride. They use it for nothing more than a tool to create a favorable image of themselves. This leads to exaggeration, which is a form of lying. Often people will create fascinating, yet completely false, stories to improve their image.

—Dawson McAllister

Certain cultures may place special importance on... 'kind' lies. A survey of residents at 31 senior citizen centers in Los Angeles recently revealed that only about half of elderly Korean Americans believe that patients diagnosed with life-threatening metastatic cancer should be told the truth about their condition. In contrast, nearly 90 percent of Americans of European or African descent felt that the terminally ill should be confronted with the truth.

—Allison Kornet

Research...confirms that the closer we are to someone, the more likely it is that the lies we tell them will be altruistic ones. This is particularly true of women: Although the sexes lie with equal frequency, women are especially likely to stretch the truth in order to protect someone else's feelings.... Men, on the other hand, are more prone to lying about themselves—the typical conversation between two guys contains about eight times as many self-oriented lies as it does falsehoods about other people.

—Allison Kornet

Dating couples lie to each other in about a third of their interactions—perhaps even more often than they deceive other people.

—Bella DePaulo, Ph.D

I have not observed men's honesty to increase with their riches.

—Thomas Jefferson

We are all liars: even they who never lie to others, lie to themselves.

--Unknown

Carlyle said, 'A lie cannot live'; it shows he did not know how to tell them.

--Mark Twain

A man finds it awfully hard to lie to the woman he loves—the first time.

--Helen Rowland

It takes a wise man to handle a lie; a fool had better remain honest.

--Norman Douglas

Women have a hard enough time in this world: telling them the truth would be too cruel.

—H. L. Mencken

Children learn to lie from parents who teach them to say they don't want a second portion of ice cream.

--Unknown

With politicians the lie is as much a part of speech as the noun and verb.

--Unknown

It is not considered lying if you lie only when complimenting a woman.

--Unknown

Tell your child to lie for you, and he will learn to lie to you.

--Unknown

Much of the lying done by men should be blamed on women: they insist on asking questions.

—Evan Esar

The man who says he tells no lies is telling one.

--Unknown

Every lover is a liar.

--Ed Howe

When a man pays all the taxes he owes, he feels he is being fined for his honesty.

--Unknown

Some persons are likable in spite of their unswerving integrity.

--Don Marquis

There is always something a woman will prefer to the truth.

--Samuel Johnson

I never lied save to shield a woman—or myself.

--Ring Lardner

Man shows no greater talent than in his ability to deceive himself.

--Anatole France

It would serve no purpose to see ourselves as others see us—we simply wouldn't believe it.

--Unknown

It is discouraging to think how many people are shocked by honesty and how few by deceit.

--Noel Coward

Tact is the art of knowing when not to tell the truth, where not to tell the truth, and how not to tell the truth.

--Winston Churchill

How awful to reflect that what people say of us is true!

--Logan P. Smith

History is strewn thick with evidence that a truth is not hard to kill, but that a lie, well told, is immortal.

--Mark Twain

An honest person tells the truth, a tactless person tells the whole truth.

--Unknown

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you mad.

--Aldous Huxley

If you never lie, your friends will stop speaking to you, and your enemies will think you are lying anyway.

--Unknown

Don't mind the lies people tell about you—be thankful they don't tell the truth.

--Unknown

You can't win: if you tell lies, people will distrust you; if you tell the truth, people will dislike you.

--Oscar Wilde

The truth cannot be told without words, but lies can be told in silence.

--Unknown

Something unpleasant is coming when men are anxious to tell the truth.

--Disraeli

Human nature being what it is, all men prefer a false promise to a flat refusal. At the worst the man to whom you have lied may be angry. That risk, if you make a promise, is uncertain and deferred, and it affects only a few. But if you refuse you are sure to offend many, and that at once.

--Quintus Tullius Cicero

'Honesty,' without compassion and understanding, is not honesty, but subtle hostility.

--Dr. Rose N. Franzblau

Solitaire is the only thing in life that demands absolute honesty.

--Hugh Wheeler and
Stephen Sondhiem

In Ireland 'truth' is what people choose to believe—whatever the facts may be.

--*Newsweek*

Of all liars, the smoothest and most convincing is memory.

--Unknown

If a man starts a sentence with the word 'frankly,' you know he's going to lie to you.

--Stewart Alsop's Father

I have never known a snob who was not also a damned liar.

--Paul Theroux

Truth is the baby of the world. It never gets old.

--Dick Gregory

A lie comes back sooner or later.

--African Proverb

Little lies that make people feel better are not bad, like thanking someone for a meal they made even if you hated it, or telling a sick person they look better when they don't.

--Louise Fitzhugh

There's nothing hurts a man so much as being thought a liar.

--Guy de Maupassant

Repetition does not transform a lie into a truth.

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

Sometimes the truth is the hardest to understand.

--Michael Morpurgo

You must speak straight so that your words may go like sunlight to our hearts.

--Cochise of the Apaches

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.

--Thomas Jefferson

Among the things you can give and still keep are your word, a smile, and a grateful heart.

—Zig Ziglar

Integrity is honesty carried through the fibres of the being and the whole mind, into thought as well as action so that the person is complete in honesty. That kind of integrity I put above all else as an essential of leadership.

--Pearl S. Buck

If you wouldn't write and sign it, don't say it.

--Earl Wilson

Once integrity is lost, the rest is a piece of cake.

--Larry Hagman
as J. R. Ewing

Ethical living is the indispensable condition of all that is most worthwhile in the world.

--Ernest Caldecott

A friend who lies for you may also lie against you.

--Bosnian Proverb

Truth may be stretched but cannot be broken. It always gets above falsehood as oil does above water.

-- Miguel de Cervantes

I believe that teaching children honesty and the value of knowledge is fundamentally important to the existence of our free society and in the long run, to the happiness and quality of life of the students as they grow into adults. I admire and applaud parents who do the difficult and thankless work of teaching these values to their children. And I mourn those who teach children it is OK to cheat.

--Steve Simpson

A half-truth is a whole lie.

--Yiddish Proverb

It isn't what you don't know that gets you in trouble; it's what you know for sure that isn't so.

--Mark Twain

Time tells the truth.

--Proverb

Chase after the truth like all hell and you'll free yourself, even though you never touch its coattails.

--Clarence S. Darrow

Truth is generally the best vindication against slander.

--Abraham Lincoln

Only enemies speak the truth; friends and lovers lie endlessly, caught in the web of duty.

--Stephen King

Truth is the secret of eloquence and virtue, the basis of moral authority; it is the highest summit of art and of life.

--Henri Frederic Amiel

What people say, what people do, and what they say they do are entirely different things.

--Margaret Mead

There is no god higher than truth.

--Mahatma Gandhi

No man has a good enough memory to make a successful liar.

--Abraham Lincoln

The whole world is absolutely brought up on lies. We are fed nothing but lies. We begin with lies, and half our lives we live with lies. Most human beings waste some twenty-five to thirty years of their lives before they break through the actual and conventional lies which surround them.

--Isadora Duncan

The world is moved along, not by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the ...tiny pushes of each honest worker.

--Helen Keller

An honest man will receive neither money nor praise, that is not his due.

--Benjamin Franklin

The greatest homage we can pay to truth, is to use it.

--James Russell Lowell

The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous.

--Frederick Douglass

The one thing I want to leave my children is an honorable name.

--Theodore Roosevelt

You have to be honest with people. You have to have great respect for yourself. If you see something that is not right, you must do something about it.

--Annie Dodge Wauneka

The biggest liar in the world is 'They Say.'

--Douglas Malloch

Ethical living is the indispensable condition of all that is most worthwhile in the world.

--Ernest Caldecott

The most outrageous lies that can be invented will find believers if a man only tells them with all his might.

--Mark Twain

Honor is like a steep island without a shore; one cannot return once one is outside.

--Nicolas Boileau

Telling lies is a fault in a boy, an art in a lover, an accomplishment in a bachelor, and second-nature in a married man.

--Helen Rowland

Those that think it permissible to tell white lies soon grow color blind.

--Austin O'Malley

Blame someone else and get on with your life.

--Alan Woods

Honesty is the best policy - when there is money in it.

--Mark Twain

It is a truth very certain that, when it is not in our power to determine what is true, we ought to follow what is most probable.

--René Descartes

Anyone who doesn't take truth seriously in small matters cannot be trusted in large ones either.

--Albert Einstein

If you are out to describe the truth, leave elegance to the tailor.

--Albert Einstein

When I was younger, I could remember anything, whether it had happened or not.

--Mark Twain

The road to truth is long, and lined the entire way with annoying bastards.

—Alexander Jablokov

You can't trust anybody with power.

—Newt Gingrich

Man's most valuable trait is a judicious sense of what not to believe.

--Euripides

The sure way to be cheated is to think one's self more cunning than others.

--Francois de la
Rochefoucauld

Truth is the only safe ground to stand on.

--Elizabeth Cady
Stanton

Bad taste is simply saying the truth before it should be said.

--Mel Brooks

A little sincerity is a dangerous thing, and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal.

--Oscar Wilde

Half the truth is often a great lie.

--Benjamin Franklin

You may be deceived if you trust too much, but you will live in torment if you do not trust enough.

--Frank Crane

Anger at lies lasts forever. Anger at truth can't last.

--Greg Evans

Never apologize for showing feeling. When you do so, you apologize for truth.

--Benjamin Disraeli

A half-truth is usually less than half of that.

--Bern Williams

One reason a gentleman may be obliged to lie is to protect the reputation of the woman.

--Christopher Hitchens

The truth is not always a moral obligation, but sometimes merely what works.

--Richard Cohen

How terribly hard and almost impossible it is to tell the truth. More than anything else, the artist in us prevents us from telling aught as it really happened. We deal with the truth as the cook deals with meat and vegetables.

--Eric Hoffer

The trust of the innocent is the liar's most useful tool.

--Stephen King

The most common lie is that which one lies to himself; lying to others is relatively an exception.

--Friedrich Nietzsche

The integrity of men is to be measured by their conduct, not by their professions.

--Junius

I know that most men, including those at ease with problems of the greatest complexity, can seldom accept even the simplest and most obvious truth if it be such as would oblige them to admit the falsity of conclusions which they have delighted in explaining to colleagues, which they have proudly taught to others, and which they have woven, thread by thread, into the fabric of their lives.

--Leo Tolstoy

A 2009 survey...found that 51 percent of teens age 17 or younger believed that cheating was necessary for success while only 10 percent of people older than 50 thought the same.

--Julie Beck

In a 2012 study testing prior findings that men are less honest than women, researchers found that women are just as likely to lie for a financial reward—if that reward is big enough.

--Julie Beck

Truth is not exciting enough to those who depend on the characters and lives of their neighbors for all their amusement.

--George Bancroft

Only three types of people tell the truth: kids, drunk people, and anyone who is pissed the fuck off.

--Richard Pryor

No mortal can keep a secret. If his lips are silent, he chatters with his finger-tips; betrayal oozes out of him at every pore.

--Sigmund Freud

Truth, at the wrong time, can be dangerous.

--Michael Ondaatje

You will find truth more quickly through delight than gravity. Let out a little more string on your kite.

--Alan Cohen

Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as much as you please. (Facts are stubborn, but statistics are more pliable.)

--Mark Twain

The most dangerous untruths are truths slightly distorted.

--Georg C. Lichtenberg

Caricature is rough truth.

--George Meredith

It takes good memory to keep up a lie.

--Pierre Corneille

A thief believes everybody steals.

--Edward W. Howe

There is no diplomacy like candor.

--Edward V. Lucas

When one has one's hand full of truth, it is not always wise to open it.

--French Proverb

Honesty is probably the sexiest thing a man can give to a woman.

--Debra Messing

Every government is run by liars and nothing they say should be believed.

--I. F. Stone

Richard Nixon is a no good, lying bastard. He can lie out of both sides of his mouth at the same time, and if he ever caught himself telling the truth, he'd lie just to keep his hand in.

--Harry S. Truman

A lot of people are afraid to tell the truth, to say no. That's where toughness comes into play. Toughness is not being a bully. It's having backbone.

--Robert Kiyosaki

We swallow greedily any lie that flatters us, but we sip little by little at a truth we find bitter.

--Denis Diderot

No lie ever reaches old age.

--Sophocles

All men profess honesty as long as they can. To believe all men honest would be folly. To believe none so is something worse.

--John Quincy Adams

A compliment is a statement of an agreeable truth; flattery is a statement of an agreeable untruth.

—Sir John A. MacDonald

I have never seasoned a truth with the sauce of a lie in order to digest it more easily.

—Marguerite Yourcenar

Too much truth is uncouth.

—Franklin P. Adams

The difference in golf and government is that in golf you can't improve your lie.

—George Deukmejian

Men are liars. We'll lie about lying if we have to. I'm an algebra liar. I figure two good lies make a positive.

—Tim Allen

I would give no thought of what the world might say of me, if I could only transmit to posterity the reputation of an honest man.

—Sam Houston

Nobody speaks the truth when there is something they must have.

—Elizabeth Bowen

When my love swears that she is made of truth, I do believe her, though I know she lies.

—William Shakespeare

I don't regret anything I ever do or say. I don't like to live my life being censored. I like to say what I feel, and I think people respect that because you're honest.

—Eva Longoria

Treat those who are good with goodness, and also treat those who are not good with goodness. Thus goodness is attained. Be honest to those who are honest, and be also honest to those who are not honest. Thus honesty is attained.

—Lao Tzu

Nothing can be beautiful which is not true.

—John Ruskin

Deceit is the game of petty spirits, and that is by nature a woman's quality.

—Pierre Corneille

Sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle which fits them all.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

Weaklings must lie.

— Jean Paul

Any fool can tell the truth, but it requires a man of some sense to know how to lie well.

—Samuel Butler

The first and last thing required of genius is the love of truth.

—Johann Wolfgang
von Goethe

Be influenced by nothing but your clients' interests. Tell them the truth.

—Arthur C. Nielsen

There is no sickness worse for me than words that to be kind must lie.

—Aeschylus

There is no truth without responsibility following in its wake.

—Kenneth L. Pike

Men of integrity, by their very existence, rekindle the belief that as a people we can live above the level of moral squalor. We need that belief; a cynical community is a corrupt community.

—John W. Gardner

The prevailing business culture in the banking industry weakens and undermines the honesty norm. The apples are good, but the barrel is bad.

—Alain Cohn

I never lie. I believe everything I say, so it's not a lie.

—Mark Wahlberg

The more he talked of his honor, the faster we counted our spoons.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

An excuse is worse and more terrible than a lie, for an excuse is a lie guarded.

—Pope John Paul II

For us to maintain our way of living, we must tell lies to each other and especially to ourselves. The lies are necessary because, without them, many deplorable acts would become impossibilities.

—Derrick Jensen

Lying has a kind of respect and reverence with it. We pay a person the compliment of acknowledging his superiority whenever we lie to him.

—Samuel Butler

Oaths are but words, and words are but wind.

—Samuel Butler

Truth is generally kindness, but where the two diverge and collide, kindness should override truth.

—Samuel Butler

Cynicism is an unpleasant way of telling the truth.

—Lillian Hellman

In times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act.

—George Orwell

In the clumsy clutch of fools
Facts are vain and dangerous tools
Fashioning little save uncouth
Snares to trip the feet of Truth,
But in the deft hands of the wise
What deadly traps they build for lies.

—Robert G. Peck

To be persuasive we must be believable; to be believable we must be credible; to be credible, we must be truthful.

—Edward R. Murrow

Honest information has always been the lifeblood of democracy.

—Thomas Kunkel

To tell the truth is to become beautiful, to begin to love yourself, value yourself. And that's political, in its most profound way.

—June Jordan

Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world...would do this, it would change the earth.

—William Faulkner

One of the sublimest things in the world is plain truth.

—Robert Bulwer-Lytton

Honesty does not always bring a response of love, but it is absolutely essential to it.

—Ray Blanton

No statement should be believed because it is made by an authority.

—Robert A. Heinlein

Tell the truth so as to puzzle and confound your adversaries.

—Henry Wotton

A single lie discovered is enough to create doubt in every truth expressed.

—Unknown

Lying to oneself is a nearly universal human trait, to one degree or another. But some consciousness of the truth usually lurks; reminders make the liar brittle and defensive.

—T. J. Stiles

Use no hurtful deceit. Think innocently and justly, and if you speak, speak accordingly.

—Benjamin Franklin

What the power structure is afraid of is that we're going to learn to recognize the truth when we hear it.

—Daniel K. Moran

No one wants to hear the truth if it isn't what they want to hear.

—Aaron Brown

For though we love both the truth and our friends, piety requires us to honor the truth first.

—Aristotle

Every man of courage is a man of his word.

—Pierre Corneille

I am sorry to think that you do not get a man's most effective criticism until you provoke him. Severe truth is expressed with some bitterness.

—Henry David Thoreau

Truth lives, in fact, for the most part on a credit system. Our thoughts and beliefs pass, so long as nothing challenges them, just as bank-notes pass so long as nobody refuses them.

—William James

The truth. It is a beautiful and terrible thing, and should therefore be treated with great caution.

—J. K. Rowling

Tell the truth, but tell it slant.

—Emily Dickinson

It is not the truth that a man possesses, or believes that he possesses, but the earnest effort which he puts forward to reach the truth, which constitutes the worth of a man.

—Gotthold Ephraim
Lessing

No matter how brilliant a man may be, he will never engender confidence in his subordinates and associates if he lacks simple honesty and moral courage.

—J. Lawton Collins

An old Cherokee took his grandson aside and told him, 'My son, there's a battle between two wolves inside us all. One represents anger, jealousy, greed, resentment, inferiority, dishonesty and selfishness. The other one represents joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, compassion and truth.'

The boy gave this some thought and eventually asked, 'Which one wins?'

'The one you feed.' responded the wise old Cherokee.

—Unknown

There only three things that tell the truth: small children, drunks & leggings.

—*TheShabbyCreek*
Cottage.com

Hurt me with the truth but never comfort me with a lie.

—Jim Carrey

In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence, and energy. And if they don't have the first, the other two will kill you.

—Warren Buffett

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, 'Fried chicken.' She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right, because everyone else laughed.

My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal.

I told my dad what happened, and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA.

He said they love animals very much.

I do, too. Especially chicken, pork and beef. Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office.

I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again.

The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favorite live animal was.

I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken.

She sent me back to the principal's office. He laughed, and told me not to do it again.

I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am.

Today, my teacher asked us which famous person we admire the most. I told her, 'Colonel Sanders.'

Guess where I am now...

—Unknown

The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those who speak it.

—George Orwell

A murderer will kill you, a thief will steal from you, but you'll never know where you stand with a liar.

—Britt Balduk

Without free speech no search for truth is possible... no discovery of truth is useful.

—Charles Bradlaugh

Above all, don't lie to yourself. The man who lies to himself and listens to his own lie comes to a point that he cannot distinguish the truth within him, or around him, and so loses all respect for himself and for others. And having no respect he ceases to love.

—Fyodor Dostoyevsky

The woman whose behavior indicates that she will make a scene if she is told the truth asks to be deceived.

—Elizabeth Jenkins

I'm a Utilitarian, so I don't see the rule against lying as absolute; it's always subject to some overriding utility which may prevent its exercise.

—Peter Singer

When you tell the truth, people listen.

—Jose Raul Bernardo

Lying has long been a part of everyday life. We couldn't get through the day without being deceptive.

—Leonard Saxe, Ph.D.

I can't control your behavior; nor do I want that burden...but I will not apologize for refusing to be disrespected, to be lied to, or to be mistreated. I have standards; step up or step out.

—Seve Maraboli

There is beauty in truth, even if it's painful. Those who lie, twist life so that it looks tasty to the lazy, brilliant to the ignorant, and powerful to the weak. But lies only strengthen our defects. They don't teach anything, help anything, fix anything or cure anything. Nor do they develop one's character, one's mind, one's heart or one's soul.

—José N. Harris

Never apologize for showing your feelings. When you do, you are apologizing for the truth.

—José N. Harris

Be wary of liars. For, a liar can be your worst kind of thief. They can steal your hopes and dreams.

—José N. Harris

A lie doesn't become truth,
Wrong doesn't become right,
And evil doesn't become good
Just because it's accepted by a majority.

—Rick Warren

Society can exist only on the basis that there is some amount of polished lying and that no one says exactly what he thinks.

—Lin Yutang

I'd rather not have anything than be a liar.

—Alicia Keys

What a word is truth. Slippery, tricky, unreliable.

—Lillian Hellman

Lie: A very poor substitute for the truth, but the only one discovered to date.

—Unknown

The camera cannot lie, but it can be an accessory to untruth.

—Harold Evans

To be trusted is a greater compliment than to be loved.

—George MacDonald

Honesty is better than sugar-coated bullshit.

—Unknown

Practically all the relationships I know are based on a foundation of lies and mutually accepted delusion.

—Kim Cattrall

Don't be 'consistent,' but be simply true.

—Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Jr.

Truly, to tell lies is not honorable but when the truth entails tremendous ruin. To speak dishonorably is pardonable.

—Sophocles

Beauty is the radiance of truth, and the fragrance of goodness.

—Vincent McNabb

Everyone appreciates your honesty, until you're honest with them. Then you're an asshole.

—George Carlin

We know nothing really for truth lies deep down.

—Democritus

Those who never retract their opinions love themselves more than they love the truth.

—Joseph Joubert

No fact can be real and no statement true unless it has a sufficient reason why it should be thus and not otherwise.

—Gottfried Wilhelm von
Leibnitz

What can give us more sure knowledge than our senses? How else can we distinguish between the true and the false?

—Lucretius

It is never too late to give up our prejudices. No way of thinking or doing, however ancient, can be trusted without proof. What everybody echoes or in silence passes by as true today may turn out to be falsehood tomorrow, mere smoke of opinion, which some had trusted for a cloud that would sprinkle fertilizing rain on their fields.

—Henry David Thoreau

The greatest friend of truth is Time, her greatest enemy is Prejudice, and her constant companion is Humility.

—C. C. Fulton

Truth is the highest thing that man may keep.

—Chaucer

It is hard to believe that a man is telling the truth when you know that you would lie if you were in his place.

—H. L. Mencken

Indeed, what the witness *thinks* is truth consigns truth to the very dubious area of sense data interpretation. Such interpretation must be purely subjective and need not have anything to do with the way things actually are.

—Manuel Velasquez and
Vincent Berry

He that resolves to deal with none but honest men, must leave off dealing.

—English Proverb

We have to live today by what truth we can get today, and be ready tomorrow to call it falsehood.

—William James

The tradition of good breeding puts its emphasis on sparing the feelings of others, and even on pleasing them at the cost of the exact truth.

—Henry Hazlitt

Politeness is one half good nature and the other half good lying.

--Mary Wilson Little

The three-year-old who lies about taking a cookie isn't really a liar after all. He simply can't control his impulses. He then convinces himself of a new truth and, eager for your approval, reports the version that he knows will make you happy.

—Cathy Rindner
Tempelsman

No human being is constituted to know the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; and even the best of men must be content with fragments, with partial glimpses, never the full fruition.

—William Osler

The public weal requires that men should betray, and lie, and massacre.

—Michel de Montaigne

One ought to have a good memory when he has told a lie.

—Pierre Corneille

The truth is lived, not taught.

—Hermann Hesse

Sometimes you have to lie. One often has to distort a thing to catch its true spirit.
—Robert J. Flaherty

All good is hard. All evil is easy. Dying, losing, cheating, and mediocrity is easy.
Stay away from easy.
—Scott Alexander

The path of least resistance makes all rivers, and some men, crooked.
—Napolean Hill

There is no lie that a man will not believe; and there is no man who does not believe many lies; and there is no man who believes only lies.
—John Sterling

Truth can never be reached by just listening to the voice of an authority.
—Francis Bacon

There are certain persons for whom pure Truth is a poison.
—Andre Maurois

Truth is the greatest of all national possessions. A state, a people, a system which suppresses the truth or fears to publish it, deserves to collapse.
—Kurt Eisner

The principle and which is quite true in itself and that in the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility; because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily.
—Joseph Goebbels

If you repeat a lie often enough, people will believe it, and you will even come to believe it yourself.
—Joseph Goebbels

There are no whole truths; all truths are half- truths. It is trying to treat them as whole truths that plays the devil.
--Alfred North Whitehead

The secret of success is sincerity. Once you can fake that, you've got it made.
—Jean Giraudoux

When all else fails, tell the truth.

—Donald T. Regan

If you add to the truth, you subtract from it.

—*The Talmud*

Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a time, but it ain't goin' away.

—Elvis Presley

When somebody lies, somebody loses.

—Stephanie Ericsson

Flattery makes friends, truth enemies.

—Spanish Proverb

Lying can never save us from another lie.

—Vaclav Havel

The liar's punishment is not in the least that he is not believed, but that he cannot believe anyone else.

—George Bernard Shaw

Loyalty oaths increase the number of liars.

—Noel Peattie

God looks at the clean hands, not the full ones.

—Publilius Syrus

How many times do you get to lie before you are a liar?

—Michael Josephson

To me a real patriot is like a real friend. Who's your real friend? It's the person who tells you the truth. That's who my real friends are. So, you know, I think as far as our country goes, we need more people who will do that.

—Bill Maher

Truth engenders hatred of truth. As soon as it appears, it is the enemy.

—Tertullian

A liar begins with making falsehood appear like truth, and ends with making truth itself appear like falsehood.

—William Shenstone

One of the most valuable philosophical features of journalism is that it realizes that truth is not a solid but a fluid.

--Christopher Morley

We don't print the truth. We don't pretend to print the truth. We print what people tell us. It's up to the public to decide what's true.

--Benjamin C. Bradlee

If truth was a factor, we couldn't publish half the statements public officials make.

--Seymour Hersh

People who read the tabloids deserve to be lied to.

--Jerry Seinfeld

The pursuit of truth shall set you free - even if you never catch up with it.

--Clarence Darrow

Newspapers don't tell the truth under many different, and occasionally innocent, scenarios. Mostly when they don't know the truth. Or when they quote someone who does not know the truth.

And more and more, when they quote someone who is spinning the truth, shaping it to some preconceived version of a story that is supposed to be somehow better than the truth, omitting details that could be embarrassing.

And finally, when they quote someone who is flat-out lying. There is a lot of spinning and a lot of lying in our times — in politics, in government, in sports and everywhere. It's gotten to a point where, if you are like me, you no longer believe the first version of anything. It wasn't always that way.

—Ben Bradlee

I learned years ago not to doze off or leave my wallet lying around in the presence of people who tell me that they are more moral than others.

—Carl T. Rowan

A child can live with anything as long as he or she is told the truth and is allowed to share with loved ones the natural feelings people have when they are suffering.

—Eda LeShan

Tell the truth, work hard, and come to dinner on time.

—Gerald R. Ford

When you have a more limited vocabulary of words or expressions, it's easier to lie. Everyone lies, but for people with a greater expressive range, it requires more conscious work, and you're more likely to give yourself away. With a narrower range, the brain doesn't have to multitask as much and worry about what the face is doing, which makes it easier to deceive.

—Jack Brown

The ability to delude yourself may be an important survival tool.

—Jane Wagner

We cannot teach children the danger of telling lies to men without realising, on the man's part, the danger of telling lies to children. A single untruth on the part of the master will destroy the results of his education.

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I am reminded of a story about ethics. A boy asked his father, 'Dad, what is this ethics I hear so much about?' The father thought awhile and then replied, 'Son, ethics is hard to define, but I will illustrate it with an example. You know that my partner Sam and I own this store in equal shares, 50/50. This morning one of our good customers, Mr. Jenkins, came in and made a payment on his account. In checking the cash drawer after he had gone, I find that he had paid \$20 too much, more than he thought he had, because two brand-new \$20 bills stuck together and he counted them as only one. You see, son, that creates a problem in ethics.'

'I don't understand, Dad. What is the problem?' asked the son.

'The ethical problem, son, is do I tell my partner, and give him ten bucks, or do I keep my mouth shut and keep all of the \$20 for myself?'

—Dr. Arnold O. Beckman

Part of the college application was directed to the applicant's parents, and one of the questions was, 'Would you consider your child to be a leader or a follower?' After much deliberation, the father wrote that he felt his child, although very much an individual, was really more of a follower.

Not long after, a letter of acceptance arrived from the college, accompanied by a note from the director of admissions, welcoming his child. 'We feel he'll fit in especially well,' the letter went on, 'as he will be the only follower in a class of 412 leaders.'

—*Speaker's Idea File*

All kinds of frankness and honesty are terrible crimes in the eyes of society.

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I dream of a world where the truth is what shapes people's politics, rather than politics shaping what people think is true.

—Neil deGrasse Tyson

To make your children capable of honesty is the beginning of education.

--John Ruskin

Loquacity and lying are cousins.

—German Proverb

Childhood is roughly the period between the end of infancy and the day we are big enough to hold a scythe. It is the child's job to play during this carefree time, to learn through observation, imagination and interaction about the real world around them. It is the job of a loving parent to skillfully distort the reality of that world. This often involves overt lying on topics ranging from the physical location of the recently deceased, to the existence of gift-giving fictional characters, to why Mommy's 'special juice' made her 'all silly.'

--*Earth (The Book) A
Visitor's Guide to
the Human Race*

Truth is not determined by majority vote.

—Doug Gwyn

You can best reward a liar by believing nothing of what he says.

—Aristippus

The truth that survives is simply the lie that is pleasantest to believe.

—H. L. Mencken

I do not mind lying, but I hate inaccuracy.

—Samuel Butler

The world changes in direct proportion to the number of people willing to be honest about their lives.

—Armistead Maupin

There is no worse lie than a truth misunderstood by those who hear it.

— William James

When there are two conflicting versions of a story, the wise course is to believe the one in which people appear at their worst.

—H. Allen Smith

I debated in high school! If you told things that weren't true or just made things out of whole cloth, you were penalized. It's too bad they don't apply the same standards to presidential candidates as they do to high school students.

—Mark Hamill

Gentlemen, you are now about to embark on a course of studies which will occupy you for two years. Together, they form a noble adventure. But I would like to remind you of an important point. Nothing that you will learn in the course of your studies will be of the slightest possible use to you in after life, save only this, that if you work hard and intelligently you should be able to detect when a man is talking rot, and that, in my view, is the main, if not the sole, purpose of education.

—John Alexander Smith,
Speech to Oxford
University
Students, 1914

Students in school cheat not to get the 'A,' but to avoid the 'C.'

—Charles Duhigg

In engineering colleges, they have seating plans...And Students have cheating plans.

—Lovely Goyal

As cliché as it might sound, I'd rather lose than win by cheating. The latter is a much deeper, more personal loss in that one is admittedly whispering to himself his lack of competence. His cheating then begets more cheating, as he is ever-privately, ever-subconsciously insulting himself; thus, gradually deteriorating any remaining confidence.

—Criss Jami

When students cheat on exams it's because our school system values grades more than students value learning.

—Neil deGrasse Tyson

I think if you cheat in an ethics class then there's really no hope for you.

—Joe Hill

Do Not Lie to Yourself. We have to be honest about what we want and take risks rather than lie to ourselves and make excuses to stay in our comfort zone.

—Roy T. Bennett

Honesty and integrity are absolutely essential for success in life - all areas of life. The really good news is that anyone can develop both honesty and integrity.

—Zig Ziglar

With integrity, you have nothing to fear, since you have nothing to hide. With integrity, you will do the right thing, so you will have no guilt.

—Zig Ziglar

It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation.

—Herman Melville

The ability to lie persuasively is one of the greatest gifts a woman can possess in this life. Some critics, principally men, will argue that deception in women is inherently evil; but having spent the last fifteen years of my life in the theater, I can attest that lying not only is sometimes expedient but can save one's career.

—Amanda DeWees

The idea that acting is quintessentially 'feminine' carries with it a barely perceptible sneer, a suggestion that it is not the noblest or most dignified of professions. Acting is role-playing, role-playing is lying, and lying is a woman's game.

--Molly Haskell

Man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask and he will tell you the truth.

--Oscar Wilde

Romantic literature is in effect imaginative lying.

—Oscar Wilde

No woman has ever told the whole truth of her life. The autobiographies of most famous women are a series of accounts of the outward existence, of petty details and anecdotes which give no realisation of their real life. For the great moments of joy or agony they remain strangely silent.

--Isadora Duncan

Autobiography is only to be trusted when it reveals something disgraceful.

--George Orwell

All autobiographies are alibi-ographies.

--Clare Boothe Luce

Stolen Valor: civilians fibbing about military service, and veterans embellishing their records with bogus claims of battlefield medals and missions with elite units.

—Brian Mockenhaupt

It's easier to fool people than to convince them that they have been fooled.

—Mark Twain

The reason 'cheaters never win' is because the cheaters that did win didn't get caught.

—Stephen Lockyer

The object of oratory is not truth but persuasion.

--Thomas Babington
Macaulay

All men having power ought to be mistrusted.

—James Madison

It's not enough to speak, but to speak true.

--William Shakespeare

An honest public servant can't become rich in politics.

—Harry Truman

In politics, yesterday's lie is attacked only to flatter today's.

—Jean Rostand

What strange impulse is it which induces otherwise truthful people to say they like music when they do not, and thus expose themselves to hours of boredom?

--Agnes Repplier

I don't describe myself as a Christian or religious, but I like to think that how I live my life is honest.

—Iris Dement

Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in anything simply because it is spoken and rumored by many. Do not believe in anything simply because it is found written in your religious books. Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders. Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations. But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up to it.

—The Buddha

There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics.

--Benjamin Disraeli

It is difficult but not impossible to conduct strictly honest business. What is true is that honesty is incompatible with the amassing of large fortune.

--Mohandas K. Gandhi

Never write an advertisement which you wouldn't want your own family to read. You wouldn't tell lies to your own wife. Don't tell them to mine. Do as you would be done by. If you tell lies about a product, you will be found out—either by the Government, which will prosecute you, or by the consumer, who will punish you by not buying your product a second time. Good products can be sold by honest advertising. If you don't think the product is good, you have no business to be advertising it.

--David M. Ogilvy

The businessman's concept of self—that what he does is not who he is....Business is business. It's what you do. It is not who you are. Lying isn't a sin. It's a business plan.

--Richard Cohen

It is probably true that business corrupts everything it touches. It corrupts politics, sports, literature, art, labor unions and so on.

--Eric Hoffer

Regardless of the moral issue, dishonesty in advertising has proved very unprofitable.

--Leo Burnett

Unfortunately, goodness and honor are rather the exception than the rule among exceptional men, not to speak of geniuses.

--Cesare Lombroso

When that camera hits you, it's not about how good you look. People look for honesty. You sell yourself; the product almost is secondary.

—George Foreman

Ethical problems in organizations originate not with 'a few bad apples' but with the 'barrel makers.' There are norms at their workplace that induce them to cheat.

—James O'Toole and
Warren Bennis

Integrity cannot be legislated, and it certainly cannot be bought. It must come from within.

—Mark Carney

There is a huge difference between journalism and advertising. Journalism aspires to truth. Advertising is regulated for truth. I'll put the accuracy of the average ad in this country up against the average news story any time.

—Jef I. Richards

Federal regulators apply a principle called 'exception for hyperbole' in judging whether advertisements are deceptive. If you say, 'Wear these basketball shoes and you can jump over the moon,' that's okay, since no reasonable person would believe it. But if you say they'll help you to jump an eighth of an inch higher, you'd better have reams of evidence....When television began, advertisers learned that facts can get them in trouble, but hyperbole is safe. After decades of conditioning, the American public no longer looks for specific facts.

—Bob Schapiro

I don't think people think of their office as a workplace anyway. I think they think of it as a stationery store with Danish. You want to get your pastry, your envelopes, your supplies, your toilet paper, six cups of coffee, and you go home.

—Jerry Seinfeld

As a small businessperson, you have no greater leverage than the truth.

—John Greenleaf
Whittier

Every act of dishonesty has at least two victims: the one we think of as the victim, and the perpetrator as well. Each little dishonesty ... makes another little rotten spot somewhere in the perpetrator's psyche.

—Lesley Conger

You cannot adopt politics as a profession and remain honest.

--Louis McHenry Howe

If you ever injected truth into politics you would have no politics.

--Will Rogers

The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest.

--Thomas Jefferson

Shrewdness in Public Life all over the World is always honored, while honesty in Public Men is generally attributed to Dumbness and is seldom rewarded.

--Will Rogers

The biggest need in politics and government today is for people of integrity and courage, who will do what they believe is right and not worry about the political consequences to themselves.

--Neva Beck Bosone

Power corrupts the few, while weakness corrupts the many.

--Eric Hoffer

There's one sure way of telling when politicians aren't telling the truth—their lips move.

--Felicity Kendal

When there is a lack of honor in government, the morals of the whole people are poisoned.

--Herbert Hoover

The men the American public admire most extravagantly are the most daring liars; the men they detest most violently are those who try to tell them the truth.

--H. L. Mencken

What generally happens in this county is that our politicians don't serve us well because they don't tell the truth, and they don't keep their promises.

--Peter Garrett

Never trust a woman who will not lie about her age after thirty. She is unwomanly and unhuman and there is no knowing what crimes she will commit.

--Gertrude Atherton

Americans, like human beings everywhere, believe many things that are obviously untrue.

—Kurt Vonnegut

Behind every great fortune there is a crime.

--Honoré de Balzac

No one can earn a million dollars honestly.

--William Jennings
Bryan

Income tax returns are the most imaginative fiction being written today.

--Herman Wouk

Rich people are especially prone to an assortment of unethical behaviors, including lying, jumping turns at four-way stops, and cutting off pedestrians while driving.

--Paul Piff

Strictly speaking, every citizen above a certain level of income is guilty of some offense.

--Max Frisch

He without benefit of scruples;
His fun and money soon quadruples.

--Ogden Nash

When morality comes up against profit, it is seldom that profit loses.

--Shirley Chisholm

The quest for riches darkens the sense of right and wrong.

—Antiphanes

Those who steal from private individuals spend their lives in stocks and chains;
those who steal from the public treasure go dressed in gold and purple.

—Marcus Porcius
Cato

History shows that where ethics and economics come in conflict, victory is always with economics.

—B. R. Ambedkar

Matthew Henry, the famous scholar, was once accosted by thieves and robbed of his purse. He wrote these words in his diary: 'Let me be thankful first, because I was never robbed before; second, because, although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, because, although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.'

—*Church of Ireland*

Man has such a predilection for systems and abstract deductions that he is ready to distort the truth intentionally, he is ready to deny the evidence of his senses only to justify his logic.

--Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Truth is the object of philosophy, but not always of philosophers.

--John Churton Collins

Every philosopher knows that his own system rests on no surer foundations than the rest, but he maintains it because it is his own. There is not one of them who, if he chanced to discover the difference between truth and falsehood, would not prefer his own lie to the truth which another had discovered.

--Jean-Jacques Rousseau

He who generalizes generally lies.

--Bertrand Russell

The course of the past has impressed us with the firm conviction that no good ever comes of falsehood, and we feel warranted in refusing even to experiment in that direction.

—Thomas Huxley

When a man is penalized for honesty he learns to lie.

—Criss Jami

It is possible that the scrupulously honest man may not grow rich so fast as the unscrupulous and dishonest one; but success will be of a truer kind, earned without fraud or injustice. And even though a man should for a time be unsuccessful, still he must be honest; better to lose all and save character. For character is itself a fortune.

—Samuel Smiles

As through this world I rambled I've seen lots of funny men.
Some will rob you with a six-gun and some with a fountain pen.

—Woody Guthrie

It's in our biology to trust what we see with our eyes. This makes living in a carefully edited, overproduced and photoshopped world very dangerous.

—Brené Brown

It is all too common for caterpillars to become butterflies and then to maintain that in their youth they had been little butterflies. Maturation makes liars of us all.

—George E. Vaillant

Unless you're ashamed of yourself now and then, you're not honest.

—William Faulkner

Truth uttered before its time is always dangerous.

—Mencius

Show me a culture where honesty is considered ridiculous, where nobody's ever accountable for anything, where anger gets admired as a sign of strength, and I'll show you a place where misery is permanent.

—Anthony Steyning

There's a voice inside you that tells you what you should do.

--Alan Rickman

Your sweet-toting and sugarcoating is of no service to anyone! Do not sugarcoat reality; it only gives the people in your life a sweet-tooth that then makes it more challenging for them to later bite down on the hardness of life. Do not tote and tout sweets either – you're malnourishing people! Instead give them the truth. What is the truth you may ask? Authentic expression of who you really are, how you really feel, without projecting the labels of right or wrong.

—Alaric Hutchinson

The trouble with addicted people, communities, corporations, or countries is that they tend to lie, cheat, or steal to get their 'fix.'

--Helen Caldicott

Lies don't make you happy. They just make you lie about being happy.

—Stefan Molyneux

Those little white lies might not be so harmless after all, say neuroscientists. In a new British study published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*, brain scans of the amygdala—the region that responds to unpleasant emotional experiences—show that the brain became desensitized with each successive falsehood. The more we lie, the less the brain responds. The result, researchers said, is a ‘slippery slope: What begins as small acts of dishonesty can escalate into larger transgressions.’

—Candy Sagon

Champagne, if you are seeking the truth, is better than a lie detector. It encourages a man to be expansive, even reckless, while lie detectors are only a challenge to tell lies successfully.

—Graham Greene

We may well ask ourselves how successful will the school be in teaching honesty when in the home father boasts gleefully at the dinner table about a sharp business deal or how lucky he was when the filling station attendant forgot to charge him for that extra quart of oil.

--George E. Rotter

According to Hindu law, lying is justified in only two cases; in saving a person’s life and in paying a compliment to a lady.

—Hindu Law

When the truth is in your way, you are on the wrong road.

--Josh Billings

Where is there dignity unless there is honesty?

--Marcus Tullius Cicero

If error is corrected whenever it is recognized as such, the path of error is the path of truth.

--Hans Reichenbach

Fraud and falsehood only dread examination. Truth invites it.

--Thomas Cooper

Adversity is the trial of principle. Without it a man hardly knows whether he is honest or not.

--Henry Fielding

A half truth is a whole lie.

--Yiddish Proverb

I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man.

--George Washington

Truth is the safest lie.

--Jewish Proverb

Advertisement...has brought our disregard for truth into the open without even a fig-leaf to cover it.

--Freya Stark

Men of integrity, by their very existence, rekindle the belief that as a people we can live above the level of moral squalor.

--John Gardner

The most striking contradiction of our civilization is the fundamental reverence for truth which we profess and the thoroughgoing disregard for it which we practice.

--Vilhjalmur Stefansson

Fraud and falsehood only dread examination. Truth invites it.

--Thomas Cooper

It is not truth that makes man great, but man who makes truth great.

--Confucius

If error is corrected whenever it is recognized as such, the path of error is the path of truth.

--Hans Reichenbach

Truth or tact? You have to choose. Most times they are not compatible.

--Eddie Cantor

Whatever is only almost true is quite false, and among the most dangerous of errors, because being so near truth, it is the more likely to lead astray.

--Henry Ward Beecher

A liar needs a good memory.

--Quintilian

The great masses of the people...will more easily fall victims to a great lie than to a small one.

--Adolf Hitler

Wherever there is a crowd there is untruth.

--Soren Kierkegaard

The truth shall make you free.

--*John* 8:32

The truth is often a terrible weapon of aggression. It is possible to lie, and even to murder, with the truth.

--Alfred Adler

Things can be easily settled at the outset, but not so later on.

--Baltasar Gracian

The art of life is to show your hand. There is no diplomacy like candor. You may lose by it now and then, but it will be a loss well gained if you do. Nothing is so boring as having to keep up a deception.

--E. V. Lucas

Candor is always a double-edged sword; it may heal or it may separate.

--Dr. Wilhelm Stekel

He who speaks the truth must have one foot in the stirrup.

--Armenian Proverb

Whenever a child lies you will always find a severe parent. A lie would have no sense unless the truth were felt to be dangerous.

--Alfred Adler

The moment a man talks to his fellows he begins to lie.

--Hilaire Belloc

Human beings seem to have an almost unlimited capacity to deceive themselves, and to deceive themselves into taking their own lies for truth.

--R. D. Laing

Deceiving someone for his own good is a responsibility which should be shouldered only by the gods.

--Henry S. Haskins

When men no longer have the least fear of saying something untrue, they very soon have no fear whatsoever of doing something unjust.

--Theodor Haecker

Better a lie that heals than a truth that wounds.

--Czech Proverb

If anything is worthy of a man's best and hardest effort, that thing is the utterance of what he believes to be the truth.

--Edwin Arlington
Robinson

The truth is incontrovertible. Panic may resent it; ignorance may deride it; malice may distort it, but there it is.

--Sir Winston Churchill

A truth that's told with bad intent
Beats all the lies you can invent.

--William Blake

Corruption is like a ball of snow; whence once set a-rolling it must increase.

--Charles Caleb Colton

Power corrupts the few, while weakness corrupts the many.

--Eric Hoffer

No man is worthy of unlimited reliance—his treason, at best, only waits for sufficient temptation.

--H. L. Mencken

We are never so easily deceived as when we imagine we are deceiving others.

--La Rochefoucauld

He who digs a hole for another may fall in himself.

--Russian Proverb

People always overdo the matter when they attempt deception.

--Charles Dudley Warner

Error flies from mouth to mouth, from pen to pen, and to destroy it takes ages.

--Voltaire

I would prefer even to fail with honor than win by cheating.

--Sophocles

You know what it's like when you find out a friend is a liar?

Whatever he says, after that, sounds false, however true it may be.

--Jean Giraudoux

A single lie destroys a whole reputation for integrity.

--Baltasar Gracian

If we live all our lives under lies, it becomes difficult to see *anything* if it does not have anything to do with these lies.

--Le Roi Jones

In plain truth, lying is an accursed vice. We are not men, nor have other ties upon one another, but by our word.

--Montaigne

I do myself a greater injury in lying than I do him of whom I tell a lie.

--Montaigne

A liar should have a good memory.

--Quintilian

People lie because they don't remember clear what they saw.

People lie because they can't help making a story better than it was the way it happened.

--Carl Sandburg

False words are not only evil in themselves, but they infect the soul with evil.

--Socrates

A lie which is half a truth is ever the blackest of lies.

--Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Honesty is largely a matter of information, of knowing that dishonesty is a mistake. Principle is not as powerful in keeping people straight as a policeman.

--Edgar Watson Howe

The surest way to remain poor is to be an honest man.

--Napoleon I

An honest man's the noblest work of God.

--Alexander Pope

No legacy is so rich as honesty.

--William Shakespeare

Let us be true: this is the highest maxim of art and of life, the secret of eloquence and of virtue, and of all moral authority.

--Henri Frederic Amiel

A man who permits his honor to be taken, permits his life to be taken.

--Pietro Arentino

Say what you have to say, not what you ought. Any truth is better than make-believe.

--Henry David Thoreau

To see what is right, and not to do it, is want of courage, or of principle.

--Confucius

When in doubt, tell the truth.

--Mark Twain

When thou art obliged to speak, be sure to speak the truth, for equivocation is half way to lying, and lying is whole way to hell.

--William Penn

Truth is always exciting. Speak it, then. Life is dull without it.

--Pearl S. Buck

Lie not, neither to thyself, nor man, nor God.—It is for cowards to lie.

-- George Herbert

Make yourself an honest man, and then you may be sure that there is one rascal less in the world.

—Thomas Carlyle

The telling of a falsehood is like the cut of a sabre; for though the wound may heal, the scar of it will remain.

--Sa'di

There is no such thing as white lies; a lie is as black as a coalpit, and twice as foul.

--Henry Ward Beecher

False in one thing, false in everything.

--Law Maxim

He who says there is no such thing as an honest man, you may be sure is himself a knave.

--Bishop Berkeley

A shady business never yields a sunny life.

--B. C. Forbes

Honesty is not the best policy—merely the safest.

--William Shakespeare

Those who think it permissible to tell white lies soon grow colorblind.

--Austin O'Malley

There is nothing so strong or safe in an emergency of life as the simple truth.

--Charles Dickens

What is intended as a little white lie often ends up as a double feature in Technicolor.

--Madena R. Wallingford

He is most cheated who cheats himself.

--Danish Proverb

He that will cheat at play
Will cheat you any way.

--Thomas Fuller

We must make the world honest before we can honestly say to our children that honesty is the best policy.

--George Bernard Shaw

A man who only does what every one of the society to which he belongs would do, is not a dishonest man.

--Samuel Johnson

To be honest, as this world goes, is to be one man picked out of ten thousand.

--William Shakespeare

Every violation of truth is not only a sort of suicide in the liar, but is a stab at the health of human society.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Men lie, who lack courage to tell truth.

--Joaquin Miller

One falsehood leads easily to another.

--Cicero

A liar is not believed even when he tells the truth.

--Cicero

Show me a liar, and I will show you a thief.

--George Herbert

The end justifies even illicit means.

--Sophocles

He who believes he is deceiving others often deceives himself.

--French Proverb

Good men seek wealth, trust, honour, glory and public favour: this is the prize integrity earns.

--Plautus

Integrity is essential if we are to cope with life's difficulties.

--Euripides

One lie gives birth to another.

—Terence

When a poor man speaks the truth he is not believed.

--Greek Proverb

Opportunity makes the thief.

--Latin Proverb

My father stole—his son must steal.

--Henrik Ibsen

Beware of truth as you would fire—they both have the same properties. Nothing can resist them.

--Paul Valery

We swallow whole-heartedly any lie that flatters us, but we sip reluctantly at any truth we find harsh.

--Denis Diderot

Not all truths can be told; some must be concealed in my own interest, others in that of my fellows.

--Baltasar Gracian

No one will ever know of your honesty unless you give out some samples.

--Unknown

Prefer a loss to a dishonest gain: the one brings pain at the moment, the other for all time.

--Chilon

Liars when they speak the truth are not believed.

--Aristotle

The least initial deviation from the truth is multiplied later a thousandfold.

--Aristotle

The very spring and root of honesty and virtue lie in good education.

--Plutarch

There are no degrees of honesty.

--Suzanne Woods Fisher

There is no acceptable substitute for honesty; there is no valid excuse for dishonesty.

--Marjorie Wolfe

The world will be a better place to live when the 'found' ads in the newspapers begin to outnumber the 'lost' ads.

--Maria Kumar

All men are honest—until they are faced with a situation tempting enough to make them dishonest.

--Unknown

The fellow who says he has never told a lie has just told one.

--Unknown

A lie is a coward's way of getting out of trouble.

--Unknown

To be extremely popular, one must be more tactful than truthful.

--Unknown

Tact is the rare talent for not quite telling the truth.

--Unknown

Of course truth hurts. You would too if you got stretched so much.

--Unknown

If nations began telling each other nothing but the truth, peace would immediately vanish from the earth.

--Vikrant Parsai

The surest way to be lonesome is to always tell the truth.

--Unknown

Truth is something which must be known with the mind, accepted with the heart, and enacted in life.

--Unknown

For truth itself does not have the privilege to be employed at any time and in every way; its use, noble as it is, has its circumscriptions and limits.

--Montaigne

That soul that can
Be honest is the only perfect man.

--John Fletcher

Truth is the cry of all, but the game of the few.

--George Berkeley

Truth is a torch that gleams through the fog without dispelling it.

--Claude Adrien
Helvetius

In human relations kindness and lies are worth a thousand truths.

--Graham Greene

It often happens that, if a lie be believed only for an hour, it has done its work.

--Thomas Swift

A falsehood will fly from Maine to Georgia, while truth is pulling her boots on.

—Fisher Ames

The easiest person to deceive is one's own self.

--Edward Bulwer-Lytton

It is as impossible for a man to be cheated by anyone but himself, as for a thing to be, and not to be, at the same time.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Truth never yet fell dead in the streets; it has such affinity with the soul of man, the seed however broadcast will catch somewhere and produce its hundredfold.

--Theodore Parker

So absolutely good is truth, truth never hurts
The teller.

--Robert Browning

Rather than love, than money, than fame, give me truth.

--Henry David Thoreau

The essence of lying is in deception, not in words.

--John Ruskin

Truth is the secret of eloquence and of virtue, the basis of moral authority; it is the highest summit of art and of life.

--Henri-Frederic Amiel

There is no greatness where there is not simplicity, goodness, and truth.

--Leo Nikolaevich Tolstoy

Look into any man's heart you please, and you will always find, in every one, at least one black spot which he has to keep concealed.

--Henrik Ibsen

Truth is the most valuable thing we have. Let us economize it.

--Mark Twain

Truth has no special time of its own. Its hour is now—always.

--Albert Schweitzer

We lie loudest when we lie to ourselves.

--Eric Hoffer

Opportunity makes the thief.

--English Proverb

Trust men and they will be true to you; treat them greatly and they will show themselves great.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Great is truth and strongest of all.

--*Apocrypha*

So absolutely good is truth, truth never hurts
The teller.

--Robert Browning

The form of truth will bear exposure, as well as that of beauty herself.

--Samuel Taylor
Coleridge

Truth is a flower in whose neighbourhood others must wither.

--E. M. Forster

Truth is tough. It will not break, like a bubble, at a touch; nay, you may kick it about all day like a football, and it will be round and full at evening.

--Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Sr.

Truth fears no trial.

--Thomas Fuller

Truth, for any man, is that which makes him a man.

--Saint-Exupéry

Truth and oil always come to the surface.

--Spanish Proverb

So little trouble do men take in the search after truth; so readily do they accept whatever comes first to hand.

--Thucydides

Truth is mighty and will prevail. There is nothing the matter with this, except that it ain't so.

--Mark Twain

Truth is more of a stranger than fiction.

--Mark Twain

Truth exists. Only lies are invented.

--Georges Braque

It is only a good, sound, truthful person who can lie to any good purpose; if a man is not habitually truthful his very lies will be false to him and betray him.

--Samuel Butler

Would that I could discover truth as easily as I can uncover falsehood.

--Cicero

Lies are the religion of slaves and bosses. Truth is the god of the free man.

--Maxim Gorky

A Hair perhaps divides the False and True.

--Omar Khayyam

The highest compact we can make with our fellow is, 'Let there be truth between us two for evermore.'

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

All truth is not to be told at all times.

--Thomas Fuller

Dare to be true: nothing can need a lie;
A fault which needs it most, grows two thereby.

--George Herbert

Veracity is the heart of morality.

--Thomas Henry Huxley

It is always the best policy to speak the truth, unless of course you are an exceptionally good liar.

--Jerome K. Jerome

Who speaks the truth stabs Falsehood to the heart.

--James Russell Lowell

On the one hand, we may tell the truth, regardless of consequences, and on the other hand we may mellow it and sophisticate it to make it humane and tolerable.

--H. L. Mencken

If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything.

--Mark Twain

Oh, what a tangled web we weave
When first we practice to deceive!

--Sir Walter Scott

Confidence in others' honesty is no light testimony of one's own integrity.

--Montaigne

This above all—to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

--William Shakespeare

He who tells a lie is not sensible of how great a task he undertakes; for he must be forced to invent twenty more to maintain that one.

--Alexander Pope

Half the truth is often a great lie.

--Benjamin Franklin

The foundation of morality is to have done, once and for all, with lying.

--T. H. Huxley

If one tells the truth, one is sure, sooner or later, to be found out.

--Oscar Wilde

It is a pleasure to stand upon the shore, and to see ships tossed upon the sea: a pleasure to stand in the window of a castle, and to see a battle and the adventures thereof below: but no pleasure is comparable to the standing upon the vantage ground of truth, and to see the errors, and wanderings, and mists and tempests, in the vale below.

--Francis Bacon

It takes two to speak the truth—one to speak, and another to hear.

--Henry David Thoreau

None but cowards lie.

--Murphy

When Aristotle was asked what a man could gain by telling a falsehood, he replied, 'Never to be credited when he speaks the truth.'

--Aristotle

Falsehood is so easy, truth so difficult! Examine your words well and you will find that even when you have no motive to be false it is very hard to say the exact truth, even about your own immediate feelings—much harder than to say something fine about them which is not the exact truth.

--George Eliot

Honesty is the best policy.

--Benjamin Franklin

Prefer loss before unjust gain: for that brings grief but once; this forever.

--Chilon

White lies are but the ushers to black ones.

--Frederick Marryat

A willful falsehood is a cripple, not able to stand by itself without another to support it. It is easy to tell a lie, but hard to tell only one lie.

—Thomas Fuller

One lie engenders another. Once committed, the liar has to go on in his course of lying; it is the penalty of his transgression.

--Francis Jacox

Truth is the foundation of all knowledge and the cement of all societies.

—John Dryden

It is easier to find a score of men wise enough to discover the truth than to find one intrepid enough, in the face of opposition, to stand up for it.

--Archibald Alexander
Hodge

The withholding of truth is sometimes a worse deception than a direct misstatement.

--Unknown

Truth is not only violated by falsehood; it may be equally outraged by silence.

--Amien

My way of joking is to tell the truth. It's the funniest joke in the world.

--George Bernard Shaw

To all appearances, fiction is the native dialect of mankind, and the truth an esoteric language as yet but imperfectly learned and little loved.

--Carl Van Doren

There is nothing so powerful as truth.

--Daniel Webster

Trust and honesty have no need of loud protestations.

--Dutch Proverb

The punishment of a liar is that he is not believed even when he tells the truth.

--Hebrew Proverb

Better to suffer for the truth than to be rewarded for a lie.

--Swedish Proverb

The most beautiful gift we can give each other is the truth.

--Unknown

Truth will be truth, regardless of lack of understanding, disbelief or ignorance.

--W. Clement Stone

When faith is lost, when honor dies, the man is dead!

--John Greenleaf Whittier

Truth is not exciting enough to those who depend on the characters and lives of their neighbors for all their amusement.

--George Bancroft

We should keep so close to facts that we never have to remember the second time what we said the first time.

--F. Marion Smith

There are people so addicted to exaggeration they can't tell the truth without lying.

--Josh Billings

Exaggeration is a department of lying.

--Baltasar Gracián

An enemy is anyone who tells the truth about you.

--Elbert Hubbard

You needn't love your enemy, but if you refrain from telling lies about him, you are doing well enough.

--Ed Howe

False words are not only evil in themselves, but they infect the soul with evil.
--Socrates

Don't place too much confidence in the man who boasts of being as honest as the day is long. Wait until you meet him at night.
--Robert C. Edwards

If all mankind were suddenly to practice honesty, many thousands of people would be sure to starve.
--G. C. Lichtenberg

Honesty pays, but it doesn't seem to pay enough to suit some people.
--Kin Hubbard

Hope of ill gain is the beginning of loss.
--Democritus

Hateful to me as the gates of Hades is that man who hides one thing in his heart and speaks another.
--Homer

All deception in the course of life is indeed nothing else but a lie reduced to practice, and falsehood passing from words into things.
--Robert South

A 'No' uttered from deepest conviction is better and greater than a 'Yes' merely uttered to please, or what is worse, to avoid trouble.
--Mahatma Gandhi

Candor is a proof of both a just frame of mind and of a good tone of breeding. It is a quality that belongs equally to the honest man and to the gentleman.
-- James Fenimore
Cooper

A man must be both stupid and uncharitable who believes there is no virtue or truth but on his own side.
--Joseph Addison

The truth is often a terrible weapon of aggression. It is possible to lie, and even to murder, with the truth.
--Alfred Adler

Accuracy is the twin brother of honesty.

--Charles Simmons

Truth is proper and beautiful in all times and in all places.

--Frederick Douglass

The first thing a man will do for his ideals is lie.

--Joseph A. Schumpeter

What probably distorts everything in life is that one is convinced one is speaking the truth because one says what one thinks.

--Sacha Guitry

Man has always sacrificed truth in his vanity, comfort and advantage. He lives not by truth but by make-believe.

--W. Somerset Maugham

Many people today don't want honest answers insofar as honest means unpleasant or disturbing. They want a soft answer that turneth away anxiety.

--Louis Kronenberger

Fraud may consist as well in the suppression of what is true as in the representation of what is false.

--Justice Heath

Nothing so completely baffles one who is full of trick and duplicity himself, than straightforward and simple integrity in another.

--Charles Caleb Colton

Calumny requires no proof. The throwing of malicious imputations against any character leaves a stain which no after-refutation can wipe out. To create an unfavorable impression, it is not necessary that certain things be true, but only that they have been said.

--William Hazlitt

The world is naturally averse,
To all the truth it sees or hears;
But swallows nonsense, and a lie,
With greediness and gluttony

--Samuel Butler

Nothing is so swift as calumny; nothing is more easily uttered; nothing more readily received; nothing more widely dispersed.

--Marcus Tullius Cicero

The essence of lying is in its deception, not in words; a lie may be told by silence, by equivocation, by the accent on a syllable, by a glance of the eyes attaching a peculiar significance to a sentence.

--John Ruskin

I like truth. I think mankind needs it; but people have a greater need of lies—lies that flatter, console, and open endless possibilities. Without lies, humanity would die of boredom and futility.

--Anatole France

There are two major forms of lying: concealment, leaving out true information; and falsification, or presenting false information as if it were true. Other ways to lie include: misdirecting, acknowledging an emotion but misidentifying what caused it; telling the truth falsely, or admitting the truth but with such exaggeration or humor that the target remains uninformed or misled; half-concealment, or admitting only part of what is true, so as to deflect the target's interest in what remains concealed; and the incorrect inference dodge, or telling the truth but in a way that implies the opposite of what is said.

--Paul Ekman

All men are born truthful, and die liars.

--Vauvenargues

The lie is a condition of life.

--Friedrich Nietzsche

We pay a person the compliment of acknowledging his superiority whenever we lie to him.

--Samuel Butler

A half-truth is a whole lie.

--Jewish Proverb

The love of truth lies at the root of much humour.

--Robertson Davies

To be honest, one must be inconsistent.

--H. G. Wells

There is one way to find out if a man is honest—ask him. If he says ‘yes’, you know he is crooked.

--Groucho Marx

Let none of us delude himself by supposing that honesty is always the best policy. It is not.

--Dean William R. Inge

People who are brutally honest get more satisfaction out of the brutality than out of the honesty.

--Richard J. Needham

It's important to our friends to believe that we are unreservedly frank with them, and important to friendship that we are not.

--Mignon McLaughlin

Half the work that is done in the world is to make things appear what they are not.

--E. R. Beadle

Proportion is almost impossible to human beings. There is no one who does not exaggerate.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Frank and explicit—this is the right line to take when you wish to conceal your own mind and to confuse the mind of others.

--Benjamin Disraeli

Make truth, in every circumstance, your guide.

--J. Donald Walters

Many people don't actually lie; they merely present the truth in such a way that nobody recognizes it.

--Eleanor Holmes Norton

Express a mean opinion of yourself occasionally; it will show your friends that you know how to tell the truth.

--Ed Howe

Watch out when you stretch the truth;
it could snap back at you.

--Bill Copeland

Nothing but strict truth can carry you through the world, with either your
conscience or your honour unwounded.

--Lord Chesterfield

Urge him with truth to frame his fair replies;
And sure he will; for Wisdom never lies.

--Homer

I love truth. I believe humanity has need of it. But assuredly it has much greater
need still of the untruth which flatters it, consoles it, gives it infinite hopes.

--Anatole France

All men love to appropriate to themselves the belongings of others; it is a universal
desire; only the manner of doing it differs.

--Le Sage

Scrupulous people are not suited to great affairs.

--Anne-Robert-Jacques
Turgot

A single lie the pupil has found his teacher telling him will ruin for ever the fruit of
education.

--Jean Jacques Rousseau

The chief lesson I have learned in a long life is that the only way to make a man
trustworthy is to trust him; and the surest way to make him untrustworthy is to
distrust him and show your distrust.

--Henry L. Stimson

Always tell your children as much of the truth as they can understand, if only to es-
tablish the most valuable attribute you have as a parent—your credibility. If you
con your three-year-old into believing that the booster shot won't hurt, why should
he or she believe your later claims that marijuana, booze and skipping school will?

--Stan and Jan
Berenstain

Speak the truth, but leave immediately after.

--Slovenian Proverb

A lie will easily get you out of a scrape, and yet, strangely and beautifully, rapture possesses you when you have taken the scrape and left out the lie.

--C. E. Montague

It's useless to hold a person to anything he says while he's in love, drunk, or running for office.

--Shirley MacLaine

What governs men is the fear of truth.

--Amiel

Wherever the truth is injured, defend it.

--Emerson

In the mountains of truth, you never climb in vain.

--Nietzsche

Truth will ultimately prevail where there are pains taken to bring it to light.

--George Washington

It is a puzzling thing. The truth knocks on the door and you say, 'Go away, I'm looking for the truth.' And so it goes away. Puzzling.

--Robert M. Pirsig

There are only two ways of telling the complete truth—anonynously and posthumously.

--Thomas Sowell

Man has such a predilection for systems and abstract deductions that he is ready to distort truth intentionally; he is ready to deny the evidence of his senses only to justify his logic.

--Fyodor Dostoevsky

In war, truth is the first casualty.

—Aeschylus

Pure truth, like pure gold, has been found unfit for circulation because men have discovered that it is far more convenient to adulterate the truth than to refine themselves.

--Charles Caleb Colton

The truth is cruel, but it can be loved and it makes free those who have loved it.

--George Santayana

A flow of words is a sure sign of duplicity.

—Honore de Balzac

One can live in this world on soothsaying but not on truth saying.

--G. C. Lichtenberg

It makes all the difference in the world whether we put truth in the first place, or in the second place.

--John Morley

In every generation there has to be some fool who will speak the truth as he sees it.

--Boris Pasternak

No one can bar the road to truth, and to advance its cause I'm ready to accept even death.

--Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The passion for truth is silenced by answers which have the weight of undisputed authority.

--Paul Tillich

As scarce as truth is, the supply has always been in excess of the demand.

--Josh Billings

I speak the truth, not so much as I would, but as much as I dare; and I dare a little more, as I grow older.

--Michel de Montaigne

Between whom there is hearty truth, there is love.

--Henry David Thoreau

Everything has to be taken on trust; truth is only that which is taken to be true. It's the currency of living. There may be nothing behind it, but it doesn't make any difference so long as it is honoured.

--Tom Stoppard

Pretty much all the honest truth telling there is in the world is done by children.

-- Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Sr.

If you are out to describe the truth, leave elegance to the tailor.

--Albert Einstein

Every man who says frankly and fully what he thinks is doing a public service.

--Leslie Stephen

An ambassador is an honest man sent to lie abroad for the good of his country.

--Henry Wotton

A half truth, like half a brick, is always more forcible as an argument than a whole one. It carries better.

--Stephen Leacock

No man is so exquisitely honest or upright in living but that ten times in his life he might not lawfully be hanged.

--Montaigne

What is morality in any given time or place? It is what the majority then and there happen to like, and immorality is what they dislike.

--Alfred North Whitehead

No morality can be founded on authority, even if the authority were divine.

--A. J. Ayer

In a closed society where everybody's guilty, the only crime is getting caught. In a world of thieves, the only final sin is stupidity.

—Hunter S. Thompson

What's worse than a youngster getting caught cheating is for a youngster to cheat and not get caught.

--Unknown

When truth stands in your way, you are headed in the wrong direction.

--Janie Wilkins

Reason means truth and those who are not governed by it take the chance that someday the sunken fact will rip the bottom out of their boat.

--Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Jr.

Nature gave men two ends—one to sit on and one to think with. Ever since then man's success or failure has been dependent on the one he used most.

--George R. Kirkpatrick

There are never ten ways to do something. Only one. That is a question of morality. You have to be true to yourself and to others.

--Jeanne Moreau

The truth about a man lies first and foremost in what he hides.

--André Malraux

The best mind-altering drug is truth.

--Lily Tomlin

When you shoot an arrow of truth dip its point in honey.

--Arab Proverb

Speak the truth and run.

--Yugoslav Proverb

In order that all men may be taught to speak truth, it is necessary that all likewise should learn to hear it.

--Samuel Johnson

Men are so simple and yield so readily to the wants of the moment that he who will trick will always find another who will suffer himself to be tricked.

--Niccolo Machiavelli

Integrity is one of several paths. It distinguishes itself from the others because it is the right path, and the only one upon which you will never get lost.

—M. H. McKee

False words are not only evil in themselves, but they infect the soul with evil.
--Socrates

When one is pretending, the entire body revolts.
--Anaïs Nin

Honesty has ruined more marriages than infidelity.
--Charles McCabe

There is no kind of dishonesty into which otherwise good people more easily and frequently fall than that of defrauding the government.
--Benjamin Franklin

It is dangerous to be sincere unless you are also stupid.
--George Bernard Shaw

If you do not tell the truth about yourself you cannot tell it about other people.
--Virginia Woolf

There was altogether too much candour in married life; it was an indelicate modern idea, and frequently led to upsets in a household, if not divorce.
--Muriel Spark

To know freedom, live truth.
--Unknown

Personally, I hold that a man, who deliberately and intelligently takes a pledge and then breaks it, forfeits his manhood.
--Mahatma Gandhi

People exaggerate the value of things they haven't got: everybody worships truth and unselfishness because they have no experience with them.
--George Bernard Shaw

You'll never get mixed up if you simply tell the truth. Then you don't have to remember what you have said, and you never forget what you have said.
--Sam Rayburn

When you want to fool the world, tell the truth.
--Otto von Bismarck

The pure and simple truth is rarely pure and never simple.

--Oscar Wilde

Never tell the truth to people who are not worthy of it.

--Mark Twain

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened.

--Winston Churchill

Truth is the property of no individual but is the treasure of all men.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Time, whose tooth gnaws away at everything else, is powerless against truth.

--Thomas Huxley

The pillars of truth and the pillars of freedom—they are the pillars of society.

--Henrik Ibsen

Let the people know the truth and the country is safe.

--Abraham Lincoln

Some persons are likable in spite of their unswerving integrity.

--Don Marquis

If you give me six lines written by the hand of the most honest of men, I will find something in them which will hang him.

--Cardinal Richelieu

The superior man understands what is right; the inferior man understands what will sell.

--Confucius

Nothing but strict truth can carry you through the world, with either your conscience or your honour unwounded.

--Lord Chesterfield

Urge him with truth to frame his fair replies;
And sure he will; for Wisdom never lies.

--Homer

I love truth. I believe humanity has need of it. But assuredly it has much greater need still of the untruth which flatters it, consoles it, gives it infinite hopes.

--Anatole France

All men love to appropriate to themselves the belongings of others; it is a universal desire; only the manner of doing it differs.

--Le Sage

In a poll of 15,000 juniors and seniors at 31 universities, more than 87 percent of business majors admitted to cheating at least once in college, the largest such percentage. Engineering students came in second, with 74 percent admitting to cheating. Next came science students, with 63 percent. Humanities majors, at 53 percent, are least likely to cheat.

--*The Conference Board*

A book might be written on the injustice of the just.

--Anthony Hope

People who will lie for you, will lie to you.

--John M. Capozzi

Fear is a natural reaction to moving closer to the truth.

--Pema Chödrön

Opportunity makes the thief; the thief who has no opportunity to steal considers himself an honest man.

--Unknown

There are a terrible lot of lies going around the world, and the worst of it is that half of them are true.

--Winston Churchill

In the end it is only the truth, no matter how ugly or shameful, that is right, that fits together, that makes real people, and strangely enough—beauty.

--Louise Brooks

He who is most slow in making a promise, is the most faithful in the performance of it.

--Rousseau

Always do right. This will gratify some people, and astonish the rest.

--Mark Twain

Remember: One lie does not cost one truth, but *the* truth.

--Friedrich Hebbel

If language be not in accordance with the truth of things, affairs cannot be carried on to success.

--Confucius

Integrity is not a 90 percent thing, not a 95 percent thing; either you have it or you don't.

--Peter Scotese

Fear is a natural reaction to moving closer to the truth.

--Pema Chodron

The most common sort of lie is the one uttered to one's self.

--Nietzsche

Without lies humanity would perish of despair and boredom.

--Anatole France

No poet ever interpreted nature as freely as a lawyer interprets truth.

--Jean Giraudoux

Clever liars give details, but the cleverest don't.

--Unknown

This miserable state is borne by the wretched souls of those who lived without disgrace and without praise.

--Dante Alighieri

If we suspect that a man is lying, we should pretend to believe him; for then he becomes bold and assured, lies more vigorously, and is unmasked.

--Arthur Schopenhauer

There are times when lying is the most sacred of duties.

--Eugene Marin Labiche

Much truth is spoken, that more may be concealed.

--Sir Charles Darling

What upsets me is not that you lied to me, but that from now on I can no longer believe you.

--Friedrich Wilhelm
Nietzsche

A little inaccuracy sometimes saves tons of explanation.

--Saki (H. H. Munro)

You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time. And that's sufficient.

--Rose King

Our whole lives are lived in a tangle of telling, not telling, misleading, allowing to know, concealing, eavesdropping and collusion. When Washington said he could not tell a lie, his father must have answered, 'You had better learn.'

--Germaine Greer

Lying is done with words and also with silence.

--Adrienne Rich

The first gold star a child gets in school for the mere performance of a needful task is its first lesson in graft.

--Philip Wylie

Of all plagues, good Heaven, thy wrath can send,
Save me, oh save me from the candid friend!

--George Canning

Lies kill love, it's been said. Well, what about frankness, then?

--Abel Hermant

Anyone can tell word lies; but *body* lies require different skills. The art of faking desire or happiness or agreeable fatigue is not vouchsafed to everyone.

--François Mauriac

Americans detest all lies except lies spoken in public or printed lies.

--Edgar Watson Howe

Human society is founded on mutual deceit: few friendships would endure if each knew what his friend said of him in his absence.

—Blaise Pascal

Truth often suffers more by the heat of its defenders than from the arguments of its opposers.

--William Penn

Nowadays flattery wins friends, truth hatred.

--Terence

Truth is naked—too naked—she doesn't turn men on.

--Jean Cocteau

A peace-mingling falsehood is preferable to a mischief-stirring truth.

--Sa'di

Now what I love in women is, they won't
Or can't do otherwise than lie, but do it
So well, the very truth seems false.

—Lord Byron

For the merchant, even honesty is a financial speculation.

--Charles Baudelaire

Moral principle is a looser bond than pecuniary interest.

--Abraham Lincoln

Honesty is for the most part less profitable than dishonesty.

--Plato

All people of goodwill are moved by truth when it is honestly and sincerely told. . . .
So your first concern must be to tell the truth without rancor or bitterness.

--The Rev. Martin Luther
King, Jr.

Honesty is the cruelest game of all, because not only can you hurt someone—and hurt them to the bone—you can feel self-righteous about it at the same time.

—Dave Van Ronk

There are rare instances when truth is best served by silence.

--Gordon Parks

Clever deceivers rarely tell outright falsehoods. It's too risky. The art of deception is closely related to the magician's craft: it involves knowing how to draw attention to a harmless place, to deflect it away from the action. Deeply entrenched patterns of perceptual, emotional, and cognitive dispositions serve as instruments of deception. A skilled deceiver is an illusionist who knows how to manipulate the normal patterns of what is salient to their audience. He places salient markers—something red, something anomalous, something desirable—in the visual field, to draw attention just where he wants it.

—Clancy Martin

Honesty is a value that should be taken seriously, applied fairly, and should be a value that you use regularly — a sort of litmus test for helping you make decisions. Will honesty hurt sometimes? You betcha! This is why you've got to exercise your ability to assess the situation you're in and make the best decision you can based on what's happening around you.

If you know that an honest answer will hurt someone, unless you're in a serious illegal, immoral, or unethical situation that requires nothing less than the blunt truth, decide if and how you can soften your approach to spare someone being hurt.

—Karen Ann Kennedy

Anyone who insists on condemning all lies should ponder what would happen if we could reliably tell when our family, friends, colleagues, and government leaders were deceiving us. It's tempting to think that the world would become a better place when purged of the deceptions that seem to interfere with our attempts at genuine communication or intimacy. On the other hand, perhaps our social lives would collapse under the weight of relentless honesty, with unveiled truths destroying our ability to connect with others. The ubiquity of lying is clearly a problem, but would we want to will away all of our lies? Let's be honest.

—Allison Kornet

Be honest! Always tell a straight story and always treat employees in an honest manner. Don't be false or insincere.

--Dan L. Miller

I was walking down fifth avenue today and I found a wallet, and I was gonna keep it, rather than return it, but I thought: well, if I lost a hundred and fifty dollars, how would I feel? And I realized I would want to be taught a lesson.

—Emo Philips

Most people, when directly confronted by evidence that they are wrong, do not change their point of view or course of action but justify it even more tenaciously. Even irrefutable evidence is rarely enough to pierce the mental armor of self-justification. When we began working on this book, the poster boy for ‘tenacious clinging to a discredited belief’ was George W. Bush. Bush was wrong in his claim that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, he was wrong in claiming that Saddam was linked with Al Qaeda, he was wrong in predicting that Iraqis would be dancing joyfully in the streets to receive the American soldiers, he was wrong in predicting that the conflict would be over quickly, he was wrong in his gross underestimate of the financial cost of the war, and he was most famously wrong in his photo-op speech six weeks after the invasion began, when he announced (under a banner reading MISSION ACCOMPLISHED) that ‘major combat operations in Iraq have ended.’

—Carol Tavris

‘One percent of people will always be honest and never steal,’ the locksmith said. ‘Another one percent will always be dishonest and always try to pick your lock and steal your television. And the rest will be honest as long as the conditions are right - but if they are tempted enough, they’ll be dishonest too. Locks won’t protect you from the thieves, who can get in your house if they really want to. They will only protect you from the mostly honest people who might be tempted to try your door if it had no lock’.

—Dan Ariely

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.

—Sir Winston Churchill

To find one’s work in the world and do it honorably, to keep one’s record clean so that nothing clandestine, furtive, surreptitious can ever leap out upon one from ambush and spoil one’s life, to be able, therefore, unafraid to look the world in the face, to live honorably also with one’s own soul because one keeps there no secret place like the bloody closet in Bluebeard’s palace where the dead things hang, to walk life’s journey unhaunted by the ghosts of people from whose ruin one has stolen pleasure, and so at last to be a gentleman, one, that is, who puts a little more into life than one takes out—gather up the significance of such character, forty years old, sixty years old, eighty years old—one may well celebrate the solid satisfactions of such a life.

--Harry Emerson Fosdick

A lie keeps growing and growing until it’s as plain as the nose on your face.

—Pinocchio

People, in general, tend to project onto others their own state of mind. Well-meaning people inevitably assume other people are well meaning. People who cheat assume everyone cheats. People who deceive assume everybody deceives.

—Anna C. Salter

Unfaithfulness in the keeping of an appointment is an act of clear dishonesty. You may as well borrow a person's money as his time.

—Horace Mann

I love you, and because I love you, I would sooner have you hate me for telling you the truth than adore me for telling you lies.

—Pietro Aretino

Rather fail with honor than succeed by fraud.

—Sophocles

Remember that it is not enough to abstain from lying by word of mouth; for the worst lies are often conveyed by a false look, smile, or act.

—Abraham Cahan

When white-collar people get jobs, they sell not only their time and energy, but their personalities as well. They sell by week, or month, their smiles and their kindly gestures, and they must practice prompt repression of resentment and aggression.

--C. Wright Mills

Sometimes you have to lie. But to yourself you must always tell the truth.

—Louise Fitzhugh

THE OLD STONE CROSS

A statesman is an easy man,
He tells his lies by rote;
A journalist makes up his lies
And takes you by the throat;
So stay at home and drink your beer
And let the neighbors vote.

--William Butler Yeats

Character counts in political campaigns. Should it also matter in business? I'm afraid it's both naive and old-fashioned to even ask that question.

--Dan Lyons

There can be no friendship without confidence, and no confidence without integrity.
—Samuel Johnson

The very concept of objective truth is fading out of the world. Lies will pass into history.

—George Orwell

How am I supposed to believe you when you're obviously carrying a fake monogram Gucci Bag?

—Madi Brown

Thieves respect property; they merely wish the property to become their property that they may more perfectly respect it.

--G. K. Chesterton

[David Frum says] '...people who expect to hear only lies can hardly complain when a lie is exposed.' This circumstance has existed in the United States for years, maybe decades. I continually hear that misleading statements made during a campaign are discounted, almost expected. I know that if my prospective employer is aware that I lied during a job interview, then I don't get the job. Americans have been hiring presidents for years who have knowingly misled them during the campaign. Maybe if this habit were not condoned and if there were a way of highlighting these 'alternative facts,' Americans could be better positioned to hire the right man or woman.

—Wayne Mortson

It is not necessary that whilst I live I live happily; but it is necessary that so long as I live I should live honourably.

—Immanuel Kant

Illegal downloading, digital cheating, and cutting and pasting other people's stuff may be easy, but that doesn't make those activities right.

—G. Hannelius

People have a hunger to connect with other people. They're desperate to know that you're not lying to them or misleading them.

—Augusten Burroughs

A reliable way to make people believe in falsehoods is frequent repetition, because familiarity is not easily distinguished from truth. Authoritarian institutions and marketers have always known this fact.

—Daniel Kahneman

Rough work, iconoclasm, but the only way to get at truth.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

The victor will never be asked if he told the truth.

--Adolf Hitler

Honesty is the cornerstone of all success, without which confidence and ability to perform shall cease to exist.

—Mary Kay Ash

Everyone, when there's war in the air, learns to live in a new element: falsehood.

--Jean Giraudoux

The unrestricted competition so commonly advocated does not leave us the survival of the fittest. The unscrupulous succeed best in accumulating wealth.

—Rutherford B. Hayes

All war is deception.

—Sun Tau

That's what real love amounts to—letting a person be what he really is. Most people love you for who you pretend to be. To keep their love, you keep pretending—performing. You get to love your pretense. It's true, we're locked in an image, an act.

--Jim Morrison

Many Anglos have told me personally that they admire our way of life. I am sure others have confessed such. What is it that they admire—our poverty, our misery? No. They admire the way we cope with life and enjoy it. They admire our capacity to suffer and to enjoy. In a way they admire our freedom to be not so concerned with the damn future and with all these material possessions and trinkets which abound. The sense of loyalty to our families and to friends. Even the rascal qualities we seem to have are at times admired, because we can be dishonest with flair rather than in the dark.

--Abelardo Delgado

Human love has little regard for the truth. It makes the truth relative, since nothing, not even the truth, must come between it and the beloved person.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I'm not going to lie to my mom, because what kind of (man) lies to his own mother?

—John Green

Don't tell your friends their social faults; they will cure the fault and never forgive you.

--Logan Pearsall Smith

A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere. Before him I may think aloud.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

It is more shameful to distrust one's friends than to be deceived by them.

—François duc de la
Rochefoucauld

Popularity comes from allowing yourself to be bored by people while pretending to enjoy it.

--Karol Newlin

The one charm of marriage is that it makes a life of deception absolutely necessary for both parties.

--Oscar Wilde

Marriage always demands the finest arts of insincerity possible between two human beings.

—Vicki Baum

It takes a lot more strength to be honest with yourself than it does to lie.

—Ryan O'Callaghan

By the time you say you're his,
shivering and sighing
And he vows his passion is
Infinite, undying—
Lady, make a note of this:
One of you is lying.

--Dorothy Parker

When a girl can tell the difference between truth and flattery, she is too practical to be in love.

--Unknown

A Code of Honor: Never approach a friend's girlfriend or wife with mischief as your goal. There are just too many women in the world to justify that sort of dishonorable behavior. Unless she's really attractive.

—Bruce Jay Friedman

'When women wear make-up they're basically lying to us.' I don't see why I'm being blamed for a man stupid enough to think I have gold, sparkly eyelids.

—*facebook.com / QueenofSass*

On one issue, at least, men and women agree: they both distrust women.

--H. L. Mencken

Do not consider it proof just because it is written in books, for a liar who will deceive with his tongue will not hesitate to do the same with his pen.

—Maimonides

Dating in 2016 is horrible. Everyone lies. Everyone plays games. Everyone cheats. There's no exclusiveness. There's no trust. It's what have you done for me lately? If I'm unhappy I'll leave or I'll cheat. No staying power. No building together? Who taught us how to love like this?

—Internet Meme

Some women can be fooled all of the time, and all women can be fooled some of the time, but the same woman can't be fooled by the same man in the same way more than half of the time.

--Helen Rowland

The beginning of a relationship is all about faking it. Pretending like you don't fart, like you know how to cook, and that you indeed 'woke up like that.'

—*theChive*

As to the deceit perpetrated upon women, let it pass, for, when love is in the way, men and women as a general rule dupe each other.

—Giacomo Girolamo
Casanova

There was a young lady from Skye,
With a shape like a capital I;
She said, 'It's too bad!
But then I can pad,'
Which shows you that figures can lie.

--Ethel Watts Mumford

When you love someone, you do not love them all the time, in exactly the same way, from moment to moment. It is an impossibility. It is even a lie to pretend to. And yet this is exactly what most of us demand. We have so little faith in the ebb and flow of life, of love, of relationships. We leap at the flow of the tide and resist in terror its ebb. We are afraid it will never return. We insist on permanency, on duration, on continuity; when the only continuity possible, in life as in love, is in growth, in fluidity—in freedom, in the sense that the dancers are free, barely touching as they pass, but partners in the same pattern.

The only real security is not in owning or possessing, not in demanding or expecting, not in hoping, even. Security in a relationship lies neither in looking back to what was in nostalgia, nor forward to what it might be in dread or anticipation, but living in the present relationship and accepting it as it is now. Relationships must be like islands, one must accept them for what they are here and now, within their limits—islands, surrounded and interrupted by the sea, and continually visited and abandoned by the tides.

--Anne Morrow
Lindbergh

I feel sorry for people who maintain relationships and friendships detrimental to their mental health.

Everyone is guilty of it at one time or another—but the idea is to strive to be your best; right?

So, meanwhile why are so many people faking it? Security? Fear of loneliness? Fears of independence? Fears of being self? Or just the idea that you can make someone change?

Regardless of the justifications you give & treat yourself to... , I hope all of you—'new year—new me types' strive for self care, honest and pure friendships and relationships based of love—and not based off the fake realities of your mind. These delusions of what you hope for instead of what's there, where you and your puppet show master focus more on everyone else and less on self. To change the world you must start within. But you must first BE HONEST with yourself.

--Tiffany Luard

Cheating is a sin, but honest cunning is simply prudence. It is a virtue. To be sure, it has a likeness to roguery, but that cannot be helped. He who has not learned to practice it is a fool.

—Giacomo Girolamo
Casanova

If a businessman tricked a customer, it's a business strategy, but if a customer tricked a businessman, it's thievery.

—*theChive*

Truth has a resonance to it that fills the cracks where falsehoods lie.

--Rick DeStefanis

Everything will line up perfectly when knowing and living the truth becomes more important than looking good.

--Alan Cohen

Those who are able to see beyond the shadows and lies of their culture will never be understood, let alone believed, by the masses.

—Plato

One cannot be honest even at the end of one's life, for no one is wholly alone. We are bound to those we love, or to those who love us, and to those who need us to be brave, or content, or even happy enough to allow them not to worry about us. So we must refrain from giving pain, as our last gift to our fellows.

--Florida Scott-Maxwell

The truth is the kindest thing we can give folks in the end.

—Harriet Beecher Stowe

Truthiness: Now, I'm sure some of the word police, the 'word police,' the 'wordinistas' over at Webster's, are gonna say, 'Hey, that's not a word!' Well, anybody who knows me knows that I am no fan of dictionaries or reference books. They're elitist. Constantly telling us what is or isn't true. Or what did or didn't happen. Who's Britannica to tell me the Panama Canal was finished in 1914? If I wanna say it happened in 1941, that's my right. I don't trust books—they're all fact, no heart... Face it, folks, we are a divided nation... divided between those who think with their head and those who know with their heart... Because that's where the truth comes from, ladies and gentlemen—the gut.

—Stephen Colbert

I've recently had someone tell me, 'You should stop saying how old you are.' And I'm like, 'No!' That's nonsense, and it's also dumb. Lie the other way! I think I'm a decent-looking 40, but if I told you I was 60 you'd be like, 'You look incredible.'

—Jessi Klein

Each of us is on a spectrum somewhere between the poles of rational and irrational. We all have hunches we can't prove and superstitions that make no sense. Some of my best friends are very religious, and others believe in dubious conspiracy theories. What's problematic is going overboard—letting the subjective entirely override the objective; thinking and acting as if opinions and feelings are just as true as facts.

—Kurt Andersen

Much more than the other billion or so people in the developed world, we Americans believe— really believe — in the supernatural and the miraculous, and Satan on Earth, in reports of recent trips to and from heaven, and in a story of life's instantaneous creation several thousand years ago.

We believe that the government and it's co-conspirators are hiding all sorts of monstrous and shocking truths from us, concerning assassinations, extraterrestrials, the genesis of AIDS, the 9/11 attacks, the dangers of vaccines, and so much more.

—Kurt Andersen

Being American means we can believe anything we want; that our beliefs are equal or superior to anyone else's, experts be damned. Once people commit to that approach, the world turns inside out, and no cause-and-effect connection is fixed. The credible becomes incredible in the incredible credible.

—Kurt Andersen

America was created by true believers and passionate dreamers, and by hucksters and their suckers, which made America successful—but also by a people uniquely susceptible to fantasy, as epitomized by everything from Salem's hunting witches to Joseph Smith's creating Mormonism, from P. T. Barnum to speaking in tongues, from Hollywood to Scientology to conspiracy theories, from Walt Disney to Billy Graham to Ronald Reagan to Oprah Winfrey to Trump. In other words: Mix epic individualism with extreme religion; mix show business with everything else; let all that ferment for a few centuries; then run it through the anything-goes '60s and the internet age. The result is the America we inhabit today, with the reality and fantasy weirdly and dangerously blurred and commingled.

—Kurt Andersen

Truth is so obscure in these times and falsehood so established that unless one loves the truth, he cannot know it.

—Blaise Pascal

After the '60s and the '70s happened as they happened, the internet may have broken America's dynamic balance between rational thinking and magical thinking for good.

—Kurt Andersen

Before the web, it really wasn't easy to stumble across false or crazy information convincingly passing itself off as true. Today, however... such subject specific areas as crank science, conspiracist politics, and occultism are not isolated from one another.

—Kurt Andersen

It will require a struggle to make America reality-based again. Fight the good fight in your private life. You needn't get into an argument with the stranger at Chipotle who claims that George Soros and Uber are plotting to make his muscle car illegal—but do not give acquaintances and friends and family members free passes. If you have children or grandchildren, teach them to distinguish between true and untrue as fiercely as you do between right and wrong and between wise and foolish.

—Kurt Andersen

Truth always originates in a minority of one, and every custom begins as a broken precedent.

—Will Durant

It is only in home-relations that people are true enough to each other, and show what human nature is, the beauty of it, the divinity of it. We are otherwise all on our guard against each other.

--Lafcadio Hearn

Nothing is easier than self-deceit. For what each man wishes, that he also believes to be true.

—Demosthenes

Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact; and everything we see is a perspective, not the truth.

—Marcus Aurelius

In politics as in philosophy, my tenets are few and simple. The leading one of which, and indeed that which embraces most others, is to be honest and just ourselves and to exact it from others, meddling as little as possible in their affairs where our own are not involved. If this maxim was generally adopted, wars would cease and our swords would soon be converted into reap hooks and our harvests be more peaceful, abundant, and happy.

—George Washington

1st April—to lie as if they were honest throughout the year.

—Nabil Toussi

You can always get the truth from a politician after he has turned seventy, or given up all hope of the Presidency.

—Joe Moore

Americans over age 50 are the prime targets of crooks who want to steal what they've accumulated over a lifetime. The FBI lists several reasons why this is true. First, older Americans usually have more money, invested in their homes and retirement savings. They also grew up in a more trusting time. They have specific health needs that can be exploited by con artists. Plus, when older people are scammed, they are often too embarrassed to report the crime.

—Michael Hedges

Debts and lies are generally mixed together.

—Francois Rabelais

Would that the simple maxim, that honesty is the best policy, might be laid to heart; that a sense of the true aim of life might elevate the tone of politics and trade till public and private honor become identical.

—Margaret Fuller

The antiquity and general acceptance of an opinion is not assurance of its truth.

—Pierre Bayle

If you want the truth to go round the world you must hire an express train to pull it; but if you want a lie to go round the world it will fly; it is as light as a feather, and a breath will carry it. It is well said in the old proverb, 'a lie will go round the world while truth is putting its boots on.'

—Charles Haddon
Spurgeon

The longest sword, the strongest lungs, the most voices, are false measures of truth.
—Benjamin Whichcote

Justice is truth in action.

—Benjamin Disraeli

The ‘Streetlight Effect’: A drunk man searches for his missing keys not where he dropped them but where the light is. Human beings have a tendency to look for the truth in the places where it is easiest to reach rather than the places where it’s likely to be.

—Esther Perel

When lies must be told, they should be told by subordinate officials.

—Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

All the religions of the world, while they may differ in other respects, unitedly proclaim that nothing lives in this world but Truth.

—Mohandas Gandhi

The ‘information’ landscape today is so fraught with opinion, illogical assertions, ideology, conspiracy theories, satire, rumor, unsubstantiated claims and propaganda that it is difficult to divine news from opinion and fact from fiction...

Accepting unquestionably whatever someone tells you is what has gotten this world in trouble many times. Doing so solves nothing and only adds to the decline of our civilization....

If you look objectively at what Snopes.com does, you’ll see that it shows you the evidence it has collected to prove or disprove something. It deals and facts, not opinions.

In the modern world, if you want the truth you need to work at it. The truth sometimes is ugly. It might challenge how you’ve always thought about things. Would you buy a horse without checking it’s teeth? Would you buy a car without giving it a test drive or having a trusted mechanic give it a once-over? No, of course not. So why would you buy someone’s assertions without benefit of evidence? The truth is out there. You just need to work to find it.

Facts matter. Support a free press.

—*Daily Herald* Editorial

Literature is the product of a deep-seated need for honesty.

—Anthony Marais

If I could change the attitude of young men toward literature, I would want them to read not just for escape, but because literature can be more truthful about things like sex, commitment, and aging. It can be more truthful about the stuff that our parents lied to us (and themselves) about, and the stuff that everyone has to lie about. It can all be dealt with truthfully in fiction and poetry.

—Lorin Stein

The pursuit of truth, not of facts, is the business of fiction.

—Oakley Hal

Everybody is wearing a mask. It's in literature that true life can be found. It's under the mask of fiction that you can tell the truth.

—Gao Xingjian

Major religions are examples of 'noble lies' aimed at uplifting human stature.

—Jack Miller

Lying is OK in two general situations, to protect yourself or someone else from immediate danger e.g., your friend's abusive spouse asks if you know where your friend is, and to protect someone's feelings. But, even then, a strategic half-truth always beats a lie. (Person who spent all day cooking you a terrible dinner: 'How did you like dinner?' You: 'You outdid yourself, thanks!') Situations in which it's OK to make excuses for one's own mistakes? None.

—Carolyn Has

You can be deprived of your money, your job and your home by someone else, but remember that no one can ever take away your honor.

—William Lyon Phelps

Which is worse: A lie that draws a smile or a truth that draws a tear?

—From *A Miracle on
34th Street*

Do not gain basely; base gain is equal to ruin.

—Hesiod

Without adversity a person hardly knows whether they are honest or not.

—Henry Fielding

A gift of truth is the gift of love.

—David Icke

One goes through school...learning little or nothing about goodness but a good deal about success.

--Ashley Montagu

We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be.

—Kurt Vonnegut

Alas! they had been friends in youth; but whispering tongues can poison truth.

—Samuel Taylor
Coleridge

Anger is a very appropriate and necessary response to an injustice. But stand back now the truth, clearly spoken, is always your best weapon. Calmly spoken, it can burn a hole through the hardest heart.

—Bill Chickering

In athletics there's always been a willingness to cheat if it looks like you're not cheating. I think that's just a quirk of human nature.

—Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I'm afraid that in slipping from truth where one least ought to slip, I'll not only fall myself but also drag my friends down with me.

—Plato

McAfee, the online security software maker, conducted an online survey of 1,201 U.S. high school students in grades 9-12 last June and found mobile devices are too great a cheating temptation for many students to ignore. One in three kids in the U.S. use cellphones or other devices to cheat. In addition, six in 10 teens have seen or know another teen who used a connected device in class to cheat on an exam or quiz.

—*Tech & Learning*
(2018)

The ears of men are lesser agents of belief than their eyes.

—Herodotus

To say that the first casualty of war is truth is to miss the rather more important point that a principal weapon of war is lies.

--Harry M. Collins

It's amazing how many cheaters and liars believe they won't be caught. News Flash: In today's age of technology, there won't just be a paper trail. There will be multiple electronic and digital trails, as well.

--Cathy Burnham Martin

We do many things at the federal level that would be considered dishonest and illegal if done in the private sector.

—Donald T. Regan

Those who are capable of tyranny are capable of perjury to sustain it.

--Lysander Spooner

It's in our biology to trust what we see with our eyes. This makes living in a carefully edited, overproduced and photoshopped world very dangerous.

--Brené Brown

When widely followed public figures feel free to say anything, without any fact-checking, it becomes impossible for a democracy to think intelligently about big issues.

--Thomas L. Friedman

Memory is often less about the truth than about what we want it to be.

—David Halberstam

At the top, you have someone [Donald Trump] who consistently does not tell the truth. That's a signal to the people below him that they don't have to tell the truth either, that this is the way we conduct government—we lie when we have to, we mistreat people when we have to, we humiliate them.

—James Glassman

Truth is as straight as an arrow, while a lie swivels like a snake.

--Suzy Kassem

Once a country is habituated to liars, it takes generations to get the truth back.

--Gore Vidal

When the public nerve is aroused, the most impressive capacity of man is his skill for lying.

--Barbara Kingsolver

I would rather be told an R-rated truth than a G-rated lie.

--Ken Gire

Sincerity and truth are the basis of every virtue.

—Confucius

You're a Black educated fool, son. These white folk have newspapers, magazines, radios, spokesmen to get their ideas across. If they want to tell the world a lie, they can tell it so well that it becomes the truth; and if I tell them you're lying, they'll tell the world even if you prove you're telling the truth. Because it's the kind of lie they want to hear.

--Ralph Ellison

There is no such thing as a Grouchy Old Man or Woman. The truth is when you get really old, you stop being polite and start being honest.

—Internet Meme

Part of the inhumanity of the computer is that, once it is competently programmed and working smoothly, it is completely honest.

—Isaac Asimov

In the absence of a confirmed fact, rumors are usually sanctified as the truth. And that is what goes out there in the media.

--Nitin Sharma

Everything's a sort of lie, and then you die.

--Arthur K. Flam

There are acceptable lies and unacceptable lies, and lying about someone's sex life is one of those tolerated lies.

—E. Lawrence Barcella

On the eve of the election last month my wife Judith and I were driving home late in the afternoon and turned on the radio for the traffic and weather. What we instantly got was a freak show of political pornography : lies , distortions, and half-truths half-truths being perhaps the blackest of all lies. They paraded before us as informed opinion.

--Bill Moyers

A lie doesn't become truth just because people believe it.

—Church Marquee

You may not like me for a few days after I tell you the truth, but if I lie to you, you will not like me forever.

— John Madden

I asked my wife who she thought was better looking, me or Ryan Gosling. The good news: she picked me. The bad news: I'm married to a liar.

—Ryan Reynolds

The children of strict parents are often more effective liars, due to the need to avoid punishment through deception.

—*theChive*

Be honest. I've rarely lied. And when you are honest with people, it comes back to you, and they are honest with you. It's too much work keeping up with a lie. You don't need the extra stress.

—*theChive*

More than 80 percent of women admit to occasionally telling what they consider harmless half-truths. And 75 percent admit to lying to loved ones about money in particular.

—Susan Shapiro Barash

The tendency to tell tales is a very natural human trait. It lets you manipulate the way you want to be seen by others.

—David L. Smith, Ph.D.

When our elected officials and our political campaign become entirely untethered to reason and facts and analysis, when it doesn't matter what's true and what's not, that makes it all but impossible for us to make good decisions on behalf of future generations. It threatens the values of respect and tolerance that we teach our children and that are the source of America's strength. It frays the habits of the heart that underpin any civilized society—because how we operate is not just based on laws, it's based on habits and customs and restraint and respect.

--Barack Obama

A multimillionaire in the Southwest, piratical in his younger days, but anxious to recapture the esteem of fellow-citizens in his dotage, overwhelmed the dean of the local college with a very generous donation. The wise old dean decided that the first thing to do with the unexpected funds was to hire a competent new head of the English department. The salary offered was generous, and so many applicants turned up for the job that they had to double up in the rooms of the only hotel in town.

The field narrowed down to two: one, Mr. Whitmore, a rather wistful, graying, and unquestionably erudite man of fifty; the other, Mr. Collins, a loquacious, bouncy chap at least twenty years younger, looked more like a football coach and unquestionably had away with him as far as the students were concerned. As luck would have it, the two men shared the same room.

The dean and his advisers found it so hard to make a final choice that they decided to leave it all to a public address in the college chapel on the subject of Elizabeth literature. Whitmore spent three agonizing days writing his speech and memorizing it; his younger rival seemingly did no preparatory work at all, and continued making time with the local belles. Just before the contestants walked over to the chapel, however, Whitmore made a disquieting discovery. The typewritten copy of his speech had disappeared.

The gathering was called to order, and Collins, the younger contestant, given priority. While his rival watched with helpless despair, he calmly pulled the purloined speech out of his pocket and read it so eloquently that the audience rewarded him with a burst of cheers.

Now it was Whitmore's turn. The speech he had written contains everything he had to say. He was too shattered by the turn of events to improvise or try a new tack. With his face burning with embarrassment, and the surprised audience wriggling in its seats, he could only repeat the speech, word for word, that Collins had delivered so eloquently before him. As he bumbled on, however, the wise old dean's eyes never left his face.

The trustees retired to reach what appeared to be foregone conclusion. Collins was so sure of his victory that he patted his silent rival on the back and said in a patronizing tone, 'Don't take it too hard, pop. After all, only one of us could win.' Then the dean came back and announced his decision.

Mr. Whitmore had been chosen for the post!

'You are entitled to know how we made her choice,' the dean told the surprised audience. 'All of us, of course, were surprised by the eloquence and erudition of Mr. Collins. I, for one, didn't know he had in him. But you will remember that Mr. Collins read his speech to us. When Mr. Whitmore came before us, he repeated from memory every word of that same speech, although it is inconceivable that he ever heard a line of it before in his life. What a memory, gentleman! And since a fine memory is an invaluable asset for a teacher of Elizabethan literature, we decided that Mr. Whitmore was the man we have been praying for.'

As Whitmore, dazed but happy, was leaving the campus, the old dean came up and whispered in his ear, 'When you're on our faculty, my boy, if I were you, I wouldn't leave my valuable papers lying about carelessly.'

—Bennett Cerf

Humor is what happens when we're told the truth quicker and more directly than we're used to.

—George Saunders

Wisdom is found only in truth.

—Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe

If I'd written all the truth I knew for the past ten years, about 600 people—including me—would be rotting in prison cells from Rio to Seattle today. Absolute truth is a very rare and dangerous commodity in the context of professional journalism.

--Hunter S. Thompson

Golf is fundamentally about being honest. I see people hit eight shots and tell me they shot five. I never say a word. It is a reminder to me of what is at stake.

—Martin Sheen

No man should have a secret from his wife; she invariably finds out.

—Oscar Wilde

You betray your whole life if you don't say what you think and if you don't say it honestly and bluntly.

—Charles Krauthammer

Lies are told only to convey to someone that one has no need either of him or his good opinion.

—Theodor Adorno

Repetition does not transform a lie into a truth.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

Authors from whom others steal should not complain, but rejoice. Where there is no game there are no poachers.

—Marie von
Exner-Eschenbach

If you speak or write truth about powerful men, they become your enemies.

—Matthew Paris

Golf... is the infallible test. The man who can go into a patch of rough alone, with the knowledge that only God is watching him, and play his ball where it lies, is the man who will serve you faithfully and well.

—P. G. Wodehouse

It is always better to have no ideas than false ones; to believe nothing, than to believe what is wrong.

—Thomas Jefferson

Books are like truth serum—if you don't read, you can't figure out what's real.

--Rodman Philbrick

A successful lie is doubly a lie; an error which has to be corrected is a heavier burden than the truth.

—Dag Hammarskjöld

It is proof of a base and low mind for one to wish to think with the masses or majority, merely because the majority is the majority. Truth does not change because it is, or is not, believed by a majority of the people.

—Giordano Bruno

It is a lesson never learned: Matters of state and the heart that start with a lie rarely end well.

—Maureen Dowd

The university exists only to find and to communicate the truth.

—Robert Maynard
Hutchins

When it is not in our power to determine what is true, we ought to follow what is most probable.

—Rene Descartes

The high road is always respected. Honesty and integrity are always rewarded.

—Scott Hamilton

When a boy is born and brought up in the middle west, he either decides one or two things. If he is industrious and honest and wants to work for a living, he either stays home or goes further west. But if he has a bit of the sharper or an underlying current of Graft in his nature he comes East—generally to New York.

—Will Rogers

Davis announced that his Policy will be Honesty. Neither is that an issue in Politics. It's a Miracle, and can he get enough people that believe in Miracles to elect him?

—Will Rogers

Just addressed the California State Legislature and helped them pass a bill to form a lawyers' association to regulate their conduct. Personally I don't think you can make a lawyer honest by an act of Legislature. You've got to work on his conscience. And his lack of conscience is what makes him a lawyer.

—Will Rogers

A hair divides what is false and true.

—Omar Khayyam

When we are in an environment headed by someone who lies so often, something frightening happens: We stop reacting to the liar as a liar. His lying becomes normalized. We might even become likely to lie ourselves.

—Maria Konnikova

A man who seeks truth and loves it must be reckoned precious to any human society.

—Frederick the Great

We lie to others in order to convince ourselves.

—Ela Crain

In conversation, people lie roughly 3 times every 10 minutes.

—Internet Meme

From time immemorial we are—accustomed to lying. Or to put it more virtuously and hypocritically, in short, more pleasantly: one is much more of an artist than one knows.

—Friedrich Nietzsche

Truth can never be told so as to be understood and not be believed.

—William Blake

Never lie to someone who trusts you, and never trust someone who lies to you.

—Internet Meme

Never argue with a liar. You can't win because they believe their own lies.
—*womenworking.com*

Three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon, and the truth.
—Buddha

It isn't what we don't know that gives us trouble, it's what we know that ain't so.
—Will Rogers

Autobiography is probably the most respectable form of lying.
—Humphrey Carpenter

Without speaking, one can win the trust of a person by one's conduct.
—Ravi Ranjan Goswami

Allow yourself to think only those thoughts that match your principles and can bear the bright light of day. Day by day, your choices, your thoughts, your actions fashion the person you become. Your integrity determines your destiny.
—Heraclitus

The truth is simple.
Lies are complex.
The truth comes in sentences.
Lies... in paragraphs.
Pay attention to this when someone is communicating with you.
—Steve Maraboli

If you want to save yourself from problems just hold the hands of truth.
—Hussain Rasheed

When a man is penalized for honesty he learns to lie.
—Criss Jami

It is better to tell the truth and face the punishment, than to lie and face the consequences.
—Anthony Liccione

Truth engenders hatred of truth. As soon as it appears, it is the enemy.
—Tertullian

Pain forces even the innocent to lie.

—Publilius Syrus

It's all very well to have principles, but when it comes to money you have to be flexible.

—Eugene Ormandy

Baloney is the unvarnished lie laid on so thick you hate it. Blarney is flattery laid on so thin you love it.

—Fulton John Sheen

We shouldn't accept things just because somebody says so.

—Dixie Lee Ray

Avoiding punishment is a major motive for lying in children. They also lie to gain privacy and maintain social status. When a child tells a lie, they consider the consequence if caught and realize they will be in trouble. But in the excitement of the moment, children pretty much overlook or forget about any consequences for the lie. 'Fear of a parent's anger is no doubt the single biggest cause of child's lies,' says Dr. Thomas Lickona. In trying to get a child to be truthful, parental anger can be the greatest obstacle. Many times, a parent's bad mood makes it hard for children to confess what they have done.

—Paul Ekman

Many educators say the rise in cheating is due to an erosion of ethics in a self-centered culture. Some point to habits ingrained in students through years of working together in cooperative learning situations. Others pin the blame on teachers who don't care if kids cheat or who would rather avoid the hassle of disciplining those who do. Still others bemoan growing numbers of indulgent parents who refuse to hold their kids accountable....people are so much more concerned about drugs and violence. Cheating is getting worse, but it's getting less attention....More serious is that many parents defend their kids even when they know they cheated. These parents may not even question the evidence. Rather, educators say, parents sometime cut straight to the excuse, hoping to secure more lenient punishments. And teachers often buckle under the pressure. In a survey of 356 high school teachers by The American School Board Journal, roughly seven out of 10 teachers said parental pressure discourages educators from penalizing student cheaters.

The parents sometime offer startling excuses in defense of their children's indefensible behavior. One high school world history teacher who responded to the ASBJ survey says, 'I've had parents say to me that if they had not cheated, they never would have passed French in college.'

At North Springs High School in Fulton County, Ga., school officials are clamping down hard on student cheating. But North Springs principal Peter Zervakos says some parents don't understand why, especially when their kid is the one being punished. They tell him cheating is a fact of life in the business world—so, what's the big deal? Others argue that cheating is a justifiable reaction to academic pressure. 'It's scary because they really believe this,' says Zervakos.

—Kevin Bushweller

Your school board can play a major role in efforts to clamp down on student cheating. Here are several measure you can undertake to help discourage and prevent student cheating:

- ❑ Survey students, parents, and teachers to find out how serious the problem of cheating is in your district.
- ❑ Talk to school administrators. Have they seen a rise in cheating? How do they think cheating incidents should be handled?
- ❑ Outline specific punishments for cheating offenses and enforce them consistently. Schools run into trouble when one student fails a test because of cheating but another gets a second chance after the same offense.
- ❑ Instruct teachers not to give the same tests year after year. Otherwise, kids will simply find a way to get copies of the test from students who took the classes the previous year.
- ❑ Make a strong statement as a board about the importance of rigorous test monitoring. Require teachers to stay in the room when giving a quiz or test unless there is an emergency. Also, require teachers to pay close attention to students during a test—they should not become engrossed in reading a news paper or grading papers during that time.
- ❑ Make sure that any policy against cheating addresses the growing use of new technologies.
- ❑ Educate parents about why schools will not tolerate cheating and how they can help. For instance, parents can talk to their kids about why cheating is wrong and monitor them to make sure they are doing their homework themselves, not copying from friends.

—Kevin Bushweller

Studies have found that most children have cheated, or thought about cheating, on schoolwork. While schools battle this issue, there are two important things parents can do to help. First, from the time children are very young, parents must

emphasize and reward honest behavior. Second, parents must make sure that their children know that cheating will not be tolerated at home or at school.

—*National Association of
Elementary School
Principals*

It used to be that cheating was done by the few, and most often they were the weaker students who couldn't get good grades on their own. There was fear of reprisal and shame if apprehended. Today, there is no stigma left. It is accepted as a normal part of school life, and is more likely to be done by the good students, who are fully capable of getting high marks without cheating. 'It's not the dumb kids who cheat,' one Bay Area prep school student told me. 'It's the kids with a 4.6 grade-point average who are under so much pressure to keep their grades up and get into the best colleges. They're the ones who are smart enough to figure out how to cheat without getting caught.'

—Regan McMahon

Nationally, 75 percent of all high school students cheat. But the ones who cheat more are the ones who have the most to lose, which is the honors and AP (advanced placement) students. Eighty percent of honors and AP students cheat on a regular basis....For kids with a very high GPA and very high SAT scores, who have taken a ton of AP classes, what distinguishes them is how perfect they are. So there's no room for any kind of error. And if there's no room for error, you tend to cheat, even though these students would have done just fine on the test. They say they cheat because 'this is my safety net.'

—Denise Pope

Athletes in the high-profile male sports such as football, baseball and basketball are more willing to cheat than other athletes. The one women's sport that yields similar results is softball. For generations, sports have been perceived as an endeavor that builds character and instills positive values in youth. Study results prompted many to ask: Just what are the coaches teaching these kids?

The major male sports seem to be spawning a win-at-any-cost mentality that carries over into the classroom. Thirty-seven percent of boys and 20 percent of girls said it was proper for a coach to instruct a player to fake an injury. Forty-three percent of boys and 22 percent of girls surveyed said it was proper for a coach to teach basketball players how to illegally hold and push, for example. Now that is clearly illegal. Whether you call it cheating or just breaking the rules, it's illegal. It changes the game. You're not supposed to hold. In a survey, a substantial number of the young people thought that was permissible. So you have to ask yourself, what is that telling us about the values that sports are generating?

The minimum-GPA factor and the time-management issue—fitting studying in amid the practices and games. I think what allows them to succumb to it is also the fact that there's a sort of mental attitude that it's not that big a deal. I don't think they lose a lot of sleep over it. So as an ethicist, that's the piece of it I worry about. Is there no conscience operating?

—Michael Josephson

The pressure to succeed at all costs has boosted cheating levels in college to record levels also. A graduate of San Francisco's independent Urban School, whom we'll call Ellen, now a junior at the University of Southern California, says, 'Everyone cheats. There is no cushion, so you have to do well; there isn't a choice. In college, there is no room for error. You cannot fail. You refuse to fail. People become desperate, so they'll do anything to do well. That's why people resort to paying others to do their papers. Because you feel: Mess up once and you are screwed. The end.'

Tests are a big part of the grade in college, she says, and those are largely multiple-choice, which were a rude shock to someone coming from a progressive high school. 'It's just memorization,' says Ellen. 'I came from Urban, where I was taught to bask in the glory of learning something, not to just sit down the night before with a bunch of kids on Adderall and go through the 30-page study guide and memorize as much as I can. And you can say that taking a drug to stay up so you can study is another form of cheating.'

—Regan McMahon

...the widespread use by high school and college student of the drugs Adderall and Ritalin, normally prescribed to kids diagnosed with attention deficit disorder. Students without the disorder find them easy to obtain legally (college students often use the phrase 'I'm having a little trouble focusing' at the campus health center to get a prescription) or illegally from students sharing their prescription or selling pills for profit. Ellen says some college students will trade marijuana for Adderall. Pope says use of stimulants is on the rise in high school, and more and more kids are using them to take the SAT. As in the debate over the use of steroids in sports, some students don't feel it's morally wrong—because it's still your brain at work—and are ignoring the health risks of taking a drug not meant for them, with no monitoring of dosage or side effects by a doctor....It was No-Doz and caffeine. Now, especially in the past five years, it has switched to Adderall, Ritalin and illegal stimulants.

A lot of students' philosophy is 'Cheat or be cheated.' So many of their friends are cheating, they figure they'd be a chump not to. 'If you're the one honest kid, you're actually going to get the lower grades or the lower test scores.'

—Denise Pope

According to one study, less than 2 percent of all academic cheaters get caught, and only half of them get punished. So there's almost a 99 percent chance of getting away with it.

—Michael Josephson

Cheating is so common in middle school and high school that after a while 'you just get used to it. It's not even a moral issue for high schoolers. Kids have become immune to it.'

A popular method of cheating is networking, which...is 'the easygoing smart kid gives the answers to some other kid.'

'There was one time in a science class in freshman year when I was networking with some other girl and we didn't get caught. We both got A's. It was a great feeling, actually, I'd have to say with no regret, mainly because I knew I would never have to use that information ever again.

Technology is a catalyst, but text-message cheating is big because the cheaters are sending out the message. Some people keep their integrity, but some fall into the trap when it's suggested.

—Pirouz Mehmandoost,
High School
Student

We call it the morning scramble. In the morning at a high school, you see a ton of kids sitting around copying each other's homework. Because a percentage of their grade is based on their turning in their homework. And a lot of these kids are doing so many classes and after-school activities that there's no way they could possibly do all the work required of them. So kids don't even count that as cheating. That's just sort of survival for them: divvying up the work. That's why they're IM-ing (instant messaging) all the time while they're doing homework. It's another way of divvying up the work. It's a way of ensuring that you get it done. It doesn't matter how you do it, just get it done and get it in.

—Denise Pope

But even if kids are not aware of cheating scandals like Enron, they are absolutely influenced by the role models they see close to them. So when they see their parent go 'diagnosis shopping' to get a doctor to say they have ADD so they can have extra time to complete their SAT test, or they hear a coach tell them to fake an injury in football when their team is out of time-outs to gain an unofficial one, kids get the message that it's OK, even necessary, to do take whatever steps to gain an advantage. And to an adolescent that may translate as lie, cheat and steal.

—Denise Pope

One of the most disturbing trends is that behavior once considered cheating is no longer thought to be so. Copying homework, for example. An eighth-grader in private school says, 'That's not cheating, it's helping.'

—Regan McMahon

The interesting thing about cheating is that it's a window into a kid's soul, and into the family's soul, too. Because so many of these kids are cheating to please their parents—to get a grade, to get into college, whatever. The 100 or so academic integrity cases I dealt with in 20 years as a high school English teacher and in two years as a vice principal in charge of disciplinary matters showed how desperate kids are to please their parents and help their friends.

—Joe Di Prisco

TOP 5 WAYS TO CHEAT

- Copying from another student
- Plagiarizing by downloading information or whole papers from the Internet
- Cell phone cheating—text-messaging answers to another student, taking a picture of the test and e-mailing it to another student, or downloading information from the Internet
- Getting test questions, answers or a paper from a student in a previous period or from a previous year
- Bringing a permitted graphing calculator into the test loaded with answer material previously input into the computer portion of the calculator

TOP 5 WAYS TO CURB CHEATING

- Create an honor code with student input so they're invested in it
- Seriously punish cheaters according the academic integrity policy
- Create multiple versions of tests to make purloined answer keys useless
- Ban electronic devices in testing rooms
- Develop multiple modes of assessment so the grade is not determined primarily on tests

—Regan McMahon

The secret to detecting lies is to focus on how something is being told to you, rather than on what is being said.

—Charles V. Ford, MD

While small children don't lie much, teenagers lie a lot. This is a time in life when they're naturally inclined to push limits. They lie to avoid punishment. They may even lie when they know there's no need to do so, just to establish a sense of independence.

Helpful: Recognize that lying is part of the normal developmental process. By allowing teens increasing autonomy and freedom, you can reduce their perceived need to lie.

At the same time, don't underestimate your teen's capacity for lying and the need for your direction. Some lies can be injurious to their well-being.

Spotting the signs: When lying, teens are more likely to display an increased number of adapters—nervous movements, such as scratching or playing with their hair. They will also overact in an effort to cover up their nervousness.

If you suspect a teen is lying about things that could harm him, be direct. Instead of grilling him with questions, simply say, 'I'm concerned that you're not telling me the truth. And if you're not, you're putting yourself at risk and we're going to have to work this out.'

—Charles V. Ford, MD

Everyone tries to put his best foot forward when dating or meeting someone new. But there are some differences between the sexes in what they lie about and how they lie.

For cultural reasons, men tend to deceive about their occupations and incomes. Women tend to deceive about ages and personal histories.

While men's lies are more lies of commission, women's lies are more lies of omission. In other words, men typically will make direct statements to pump themselves up—whereas women will subtly try to weave impressions by leaving things out.

Helpful: As everyone knows, interrogation-like tactics do not go over well in romantic interactions. Instead, you want to detect deceit without letting the other person know that you're doing it.

When interacting with a man: Keep careful track of the statements he makes and come back to them later in the conversation by asking a question regarding each one.

This dance will put the man off guard and let you get more details in order to spot inconsistencies. After all, the more details someone has to come up with, the more he has to lie and the easier it is to detect.

When interacting with a woman: Pay special attention to what a woman doesn't say. If she describes a big trip to Europe but doesn't mention any companion, you might wonder with whom she went.

Closely observe body language while she's talking. If she seems stiff, tense and is leaning away from you rather than toward you, she may be holding back verbally as well. Watch also for facial and or neck flushing in response to questions.

—Charles V. Ford, MD

Every manager is faced with a yes-man phenomenon—people who will do or say anything to please you. Even if it means lying about what they really think. Other common forms of lying by staffers are overpromising and claiming to have done things that have not yet been accomplished.

Helpful: Good managers are inwardly analytic and skeptical of everything they hear. They also realize that employees tend to lie primarily in response to the first question and will not be prepared to lie beyond that.

The trick is to act in a trusting manner while subtly prodding for deceit by asking more questions. Good managers also routinely examine their own unconscious wishes is to be deceived and flattered, especially when seeking feedback about their own ideas.

Example: Instead of presenting your solution to a problem and asking for an opinion, say you have a possible solution and would appreciate hearing alternative.

—Charles V. Ford, MD

The only lies for which we are truly punished are those we tell ourselves.

—V. S. Naipaul

Don't steal, don't lie, don't cheat...The government hates competition.

—*facebook.com/auntyacid*

The youngest children don't realize what they are doing. It's hard for them to distinguish between reality and fantasy.

—Kaaren Gouze

By the age of 6, 7, or 8, kids know the difference between fantasy and reality. This is when they begin to purposely use lies to their advantage.

Being old enough to understand that consequences follow bad behavior, elementary kids may lie to keep themselves out of trouble.

Many kids at this age also lie to make themselves seem better in their peers' eyes. Your son may claim that his uncle is Rex Grossman and that his dad has 50-yard-line season tickets for the Bears. It's not true, but for a while, he might be more popular.

If you discover a lie, sit your child down and explain that lying is simply wrong. Lay out the consequences of a lie and follow through with punishment. Enforce that lying is bad, but emphasize that your child is still a good person....For the younger set, be sure to explain the difference between lying and using tact. Focus on making small omissions in the truth to protect people's feelings, such as not mentioning Grandpa's expanding tummy mommy's bad hair day. Little ones may not instinctively understand the difference between stating the obvious or ignoring it.

—Michelle Sussman

For all ages, knowing why your child lies helps parents cope with the situation. To prevent lying, or at least reduce its incidence, parents must model honesty around their kids every day. For instance, don't lie on the phone to your boss about being sick when you're really heading to the Cubs game. Kids pick up on little lies like that and in their minds, it makes lying OK.

—Michelle Sussman

When tweens start to spread their wings, parents want to hold on tighter. For reason, too, since kids at this age tend to lie more about their whereabouts and activities. Tweens want to control their own lives more than their younger counterparts and may try manipulation to achieve their goals.

Kids also begin to engage in risky behaviors at this age, behaviors their parents probably would not approve. Ground rules should be established and discipline must be consistent.

But if your child continues to lie or the lies become related to more serious behaviors such as drugs, sex or unlawful behavior, parents must intervene.

—Michelle Sussman

Truth that is naked is the most beautiful, and the simpler its expression the deeper is the impression it makes.

—Arthur Schopenhauer

Most of it [lying] boils down to punishment avoidance....It's developmentally normal for these kids to test their limits. Parents need to spend some time talking about trustworthiness and keep the conversation going for the next six to seven years....Occasionally it happens that some kids have repetitive and serious issues with lying. This is the time for a serious discussion and parents might want to seek out a therapist to resolve emotional issues.

—Dr. Jan Remer-Osborn