**Dishonesty**

**What lies are you going to tell your kids? I already have a list. No. 1: "We can't get a dog. I'm allergic." *(@ramit (Ramit Sethi), writer and founder of IWillTeachYouToBeRich.com)***

**An ambassador is an honest man sent to lie abroad for his country. *(Henry Wotton, English diplomat)***

**There's an annual gap of nearly $300 billion between what all individual taxpayers owe the IRS and what they actually pay. Eighty percent of the shortfall comes from under-reported income, especially from business activities. *(CNNmoney.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 15, 2005)***

**A good lie finds more believers than a bad truth. *(German proverb)***

**If you think fisherman are the biggest liars in the world, ask a jogger how far he runs every morning. *(Larry Johnson, "Hotline")***

**A truth that's told with bad intent / Beats all the lies you can invent. *(William Blake)***

**Occasional liars blink more frequently when they lie. Habitual liars don’t. Or so researchers have observed. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When I was a little boy, they called me a liar. But now that I am grown up, they call me a writer. *(Isaac Bashevis Singer, Nobel Prize in Literature, 1978)***

**Honesty may be the best policy, but it’s important to remember that apparently, by elimination, dishonesty is the second-best policy*. (George Carlin)***

**Never chase a lie. Let it alone, and it will run itself to death. *(Lyman Beecher)***

**They say that in the end truth will triumph, but it's a lie. *(Anton Chekhov)***

**Bad week for: Honesty, after researchers at Toronto University found that the earlier a child starts telling convincing lies, the more likely he is to be a success later in life. "Those who have better cognitive development lie better, because they can cover up their tracks," said researcher Dr. Kang Lee. *(The Week magazine, May 28, 2010)***

**“When we get home,” the mother lectured her three young sons in the backseat of the car. “I want you all to clean your rooms because relatives are coming over. They’ve never been to our house before, and I want it to look tidy.” Her nine-year-old finally broke a lengthy silence, “But isn’t that kind of like lying?” *(The PassTime Paper)***

**No matter how much you’ve been complaining about the food, as soon as the waiter asks you how things are, you always say “Fine.” *(Roger Simon, Los Angeles Times Syndicate)***

**Bill Meinel of Burlington, Wisconsin, claims his wife changed her mind about paint colors so many times that their 1,800-square-foot house shrunk to 1,000 square feet. He won the 2003 World Champion Liar Contest, sponsored by the Burlington Liars Club. *(Marti Attoun, in American Profile magazine)***

**The curse of totalitarian governments is that they kill people for telling the truth; do that enough times, and you end up with a nation of liars. *(David Von Drehle, journalist)***

**I remember the time I cut classes in high school to attend one of the first Minnesota Twins games of the season. While exiting with some 30,000 fans after the contest, I had the misfortune of bumping into our stern assistant principal. He didn’t say a word. That night I couldn’t sleep wondering what would happen to me the next day. As I waited to be summoned from homeroom, a PA announcement informed us that the assistant principal was feeling much better after being out sick the day before. I never heard a thing, then or later, about my absence. *(Carl Morrison, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Deceiving someone for his own good is a responsibility that should be shouldered only by the gods. *(Henry S. Haskins, in Meditations in Wall Street)***

**Fast-fingered employees were responsible for about 44 percent of the retail merchandise that went missing from retail stores in 2011, costing employers roughly $15 billion. Retailers are now wising up and using databases to track employees who are caught red-handed, excluding them from future employment in the retail sector. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 12, 2013)***

**In a recent poll of 500 financial workers in the U.S. and Britain, 24 percent said they believe unethical or illegal behavior could help people in their industry be successful. Sixteen percent said they would commit insider trading if they knew they’d get away with it. *(Reuters.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 20, 2012)***

**As much as $135 billion in fraudulent pandemic unemployment insurance claims were likely paid out from April 2020 to May 2023, according to new estimates by the Government Accountability Office. That equates to about 15 percent of total unemployment benefits distributed during the pandemic. *(The Hill, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 29, 2023)***

**Until the U.S. Post Office laws were strengthened in the 1870s, a big and profitable mail-order business was the selling of mechanical devices to help gamblers to cheat. Known as “advantage tools,” these devices included marked cards, loaded dice, cutters and trimmers for shaving edges on cards, sleeves and vests for holding extra cards, and “shiners” or “spies” for reading the opponents’ cards. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 424)***

**A 4-year-old was asked to give the blessing before Thanksgiving dinner. As family members bowed their heads in expectation, the child began. First, the youngster thanked God for each friend, naming them one by one. Then the child thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and aunt and uncle. Next, the tyke began to thank God for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the Cool Whip. Then the child paused. Everyone waited -- and waited. After a long silence, the youngster looked up. “If I thank God for the broccoli, Mom,” the child asked, “won’t God know that I’m lying?” *(Good Clean Fun web site)***

**Once there was man who was such a golf addict that he was neglecting his job. Frequently he would call in sick as an excuse for play. One morning, after making his usual call to the office, an angel up above spotted him on the way to the golf course and decided to teach him a lesson. “If you play golf today, you will be punished,” the angel whispered in his ear. Thinking it was only his conscience, which he had successfully whipped in the past, the fellow just smiled. “No,” he said, “I’ve been doing this for years. No one will ever know. I won’t be punished.” The angel said no more and the fellow stepped up to the first tee where he promptly whacked the ball 300 yards straight down the middle of the fairway. Since he had never driven the ball more than 200 yards, he couldn’t believe it. Yet, there it was. And his luck continued. Long drives on every hole, perfect putting. By the ninth hole he was six under par and was playing near-perfect golf. The fellow was walking on air. He wound up with an amazing 61, about 30 strokes under his usual game. Wait until he got back to the office and told them about this! But, suddenly, his face fell. He couldn’t tell them. He could never tell anyone. The angel smiled. *(Bits & Pieces) 8229117***

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**A great lie is like a great fish on dry land: it may fret and fling and make a frightful bother, but it cannot hurt you. You have only to keep still, and it will die of itself. *(George Crabbe)***

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**The true income of the average Greek citizen is almost twice what is reported to the government, according to a new study of Greek bank data. In 2009, some $34 billion in income went unreported. Taxes on that income would have accounted for 31 percent of the country’s budget deficit that year. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 20, 2012)***

**A half truth is a whole lie. *(Yiddish proverb)***

**It is twice as hard to crush a half-truth as a whole lie. *(Austin O'Malley)***

**People who write fiction, if they had not taken it up, might have become very successful liars. *(Ernest Hemingway)***

**We lie loudest when we lie to ourselves. *(Eric Hoffer, in The Passionate State of Mind)***

**Men hate those to whom they have to lie. *(Victor Hugo)***

**If everybody always lies to you, the consequence is not that you believe the lies, but rather that nobody believes anything any longer. *(Hannah Arendt)***

**The great enemy of truth is very often not the lie – deliberate, contrived, and dishonest – but the myth – persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic. *(John F. Kennedy)***

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**Fiction is the truth inside the lie. *(Stephen King)***

**The trust of the innocent is the liar’s most useful tool. *(Stephen King)***

**Only enemies speak the truth; friends and lovers lie endlessly, caught in the web of duty. *(Stephen King)***

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**Sixty-five percent of people say that cheating on your income tax is worse than cheating on your spouse. The other 35 percent were women. *(Jay Leno)***

**No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

**The 50 largest American companies made about $4 trillion in profits from 2008 to 2014. About a quarter of that amount was kept outside the country via more than 1,500 subsidiaries in tax havens like the Cayman Islands, costing the U.S. about $111 billion each year in lost tax revenue, according to a report by Oxfam America. *(TheAtlantic, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 29, 2016)***

**The U.S. paid more than $47 billion in questionable Medicare claims last year, nearly three times the amount of fraudulent claims paid out the previous year, a federal watchdog reports. Bogus claims include prescriptions issued in the names of long-dead doctors. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 27, 2009)***

**Washington, D.C., is to lying what Wisconsin is to cheese. *(Dennis Miller)***

**A liar needs a good memory. *(Quintilian)***

**First man: “Truth is dead. I’ve written its obituary. Truth, the key building block in human cultural evolution, was pronounced dead today. Friends said truth had been ailing for years, plagued by political and corporate duplicity. The final cause of death was lies.” Second man: “Parachute accident would’ve been cool.” *(Darrin Bell & Theron Heir, in Rudy Park comic strip)***

**Wealthy individuals and corrupt politicians have stashed about $7.6 trillion in offshore tax havens, economist Gabriel Zucman has estimated. That's 8 percent of the world's wealth. *(Vox.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 15, 2016)***

**We always hear of "old fashioned" honesty -- but dishonesty has quite a long genealogy, too. *(Bill Vaughan, in Kansas City Star)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**People do not believe lies because they have to, but because they want to. *(Malcolm Muggeridge, author)***

**People never lie so much as after a hunt, during a war, or before an election. *(Otto von Bismarck)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**After a minor accident, my mother accompanied me to the emergency room. Now, I’m five feet, three inches tall and pleasantly plump – not exactly Brad Pitt. But when the nurse asked for my height and weight, I blurted out, “Five-foot-eight and 125 pounds.” As the nurse paused to check her eyesight, Mom leaned over to me. “Sweetheart,” she gently chided, “this isn’t the Internet.” *(Bob Meyerson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**A politician running for office visits a small rural town and says to the mayor, "I want to help you. What are your needs?" "We have two basic needs," the mayor replies. "First we have a hospital but no doctor." Hearing this, the politician pulls out his phone, and after speaking for a while tells the mayor, "Don't worry, a doctor will be there soon. Now, what's the second problem?" "We don't have cell-phone reception." (PLANET PROCTOR NEWSLETTER)**

**The rectory of a Catholic church in Indianapolis maintains a book where priests who compete in weekly golf matches post their scores. The book is entitled The Lies of the Saints. *(Fred W. Fries, in Reader's Digest)***

**Psychologists insist a person who lies takes a little longer to answer questions than one who tells the truth*. (L. M. Boyd)***

**More than 30 percent of the world’s 200 richest people – with a collective net worth of $2.8 trillion – control their fortunes through offshore holding companies that hide assets from tax authorities and lawsuits. *(Bloomberg.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 10, 2013)***

**The liar’s punishment is not that he is not believed, but that he cannot believe anyone else*. (George Bernard Shaw) 9209023***

**At the end of his Sunday morning, adult Bible class, a pastor said to the attendees, “Next week, we will talk about the sin of lying. To help you be prepared for the class, I want you to read Mark 17.” The following Sunday as he began the Bible class, the pastor asked for a show of hands of who had remembered to read Mark 17. Nearly every hand went up. The pastor smiled, then he calmly informed everyone: “Mark has only 16 chapters. So now, let’s begin our class on the sin of lying.” *(The Lutheran Witness)***

**People never lie so much as after a hunt, during a war, or before an election. *(Otto von Bismarck)***

**Son: "Mom, can I borrow fifteen bucks?" Mom: "What for?" Son: "There's a good song on this CD." Mom: "One song? Can't you just download it?" Son: "I thought you said that was stealing." Mom: "It is stealing, but putting out a fifteen-dollar CD with one good song on it is grand theft!" *(Jerry Scott, & Jim Borgman, in Zits comic strip)***

**Isn't it a pity how we are surprised at someone's honesty but not at anyone's deceit? *(Rosalyn Hart Finch)***

**Falsehood flies, and truth comes limping after it. *(Jonathan Swift)***

**If every Fortune 500 company paid taxes on its profits sheltered overseas, the U.S. government would receive $717.8 billion, according to a new study co-authored by U.S. PIRG Education Fund and Citizens for Tax Justice. The windfall would easily cover the entire 2015 federal budget deficit of $439 billion. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 14, 2016)***

**One Sunday our minister's sermon topic was "thou shalt not steal." He began by making all those who had stolen something -- no matter how insignificant -- to raise their hands. Many hands went up, and the pastor himself admitted that he had been guilty. He then preached on the sin of stealing. The following Sunday, the homily theme was "lying." Our minister began by saying, "Last week, I asked all those who had ever stolen to raise your hands. These were some who didn't. This sermon is for you." *(Jean Vander Hoek, in Reader's Digest)***

**The true number of Covid deaths is 44 percent higher than the official count of 420,000, according to a data analysis of nearly 800 counties. Undercounting was most prevalent in counties that supported President Trump, the analysis found, with many Covid deaths simply not diagnosed or reported as such. *(StatNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 5, 2021)***

**The truth is not always honest. The captain of a ship once entered in his log, “Mate was drunk today.” When the mate found it out, he pleaded with the captain to cross it out. He said it was the first time he’d ever been drunk and it wasn’t fair. But the captain said, “In this log we always write the exact truth.” The next week the mate kept the log. In it he wrote, “The captain was sober today.” *(Bits & Pieces) 11159013***

**A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes. *(Mark Twain)***

**Every lie is two lies – the lie we tell others and the lie we tell ourselves to justify it. *(Robert Brault, writer)***

**About $17 billion in unemployment insurance benefits paid out over the past year – 11.6 percent of the total – was obtained through fraud, the U.S. Labor Department says. People are cheating the government mainly by continuing to cash checks after they find a job, or by claiming benefits for which they’re not eligible. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 15, 2011)***

**There are two ways of lying, as there are two ways of deceiving customers. If the scale registers 15 ounces, you can say: "It is a pound." Your lie will remain relative to an invariable measure of the true. If customers check it, they can see that they are being robbed, and you know by how much you are robbing them: a truth remains as a judge between you. But if the demon induces you to tamper with the scale itself, it is the criterion of the true which is denatured, there is no longer any possible control. And little by little you will forget that you are cheating. *(Denis de Rougemont, in Catholic Digest)***

**Those who think it’s permissible to tell white lies soon become color-blind. *(Austin O’Malley) 9209010***

**Lies written in ink can never disguise facts written in blood. *(Lu Xun, author)***

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