EXTENDED WRITING: HONESTY

B2 | Adults / Teens | Discussion Writing | 20–30 minutes | Set 2

Write developed answers. Support your ideas with reasons, examples, or a personal experience.

1. Do you consider yourself an honest person? Why?

2. When, if ever, is dishonesty wrong?

3. Why do people sometimes lie?

4. Do politicians have a duty to be honest?

5. Is a “white lie” acceptable?

6. When is it better to be tactful rather than completely direct?

7. Do people feel guilty after being dishonest?

8. What makes someone trustworthy?

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Possible B2 answers: Notice how each response gives a clear idea and support.

1. Do you consider yourself an honest person? Why?

Example: I consider myself honest because I admit mistakes even when it's embarrassing. For example, if I forget an appointment, I'd rather apologise than invent an excuse.

2. When, if ever, is dishonesty wrong?

Example: Dishonesty is wrong when it takes away someone's ability to make an informed choice. Hiding serious faults before selling a car, for instance, unfairly transfers the risk to the buyer.

3. Why do people sometimes lie?

Example: People sometimes lie to avoid embarrassment or punishment. A student might claim to have lost homework rather than admit it isn't finished, although that usually creates another problem later.

4. Do politicians have a duty to be honest?

Example: Yes, politicians should be honest because people rely on their statements when making decisions. If a policy fails, explaining what happened is more responsible than hiding the result.

5. Is a “white lie” acceptable?

Example: A small white lie may be acceptable if it avoids needless hurt, such as being polite about an unwanted gift. However, I wouldn't use one to hide information someone needs.

6. When is it better to be tactful rather than completely direct?

Example: Tact is useful when giving criticism. Saying a presentation needs a clearer ending helps someone improve, whereas calling it terrible is hurtful and doesn't explain what to change.

7. Do people feel guilty after being dishonest?

Example: Some people feel guilty after lying, especially if they value the relationship involved. Others justify their behaviour, so feeling guilty isn't automatic and doesn't always lead to an apology.

8. What makes someone trustworthy?

Example: Someone becomes trustworthy by keeping promises and behaving consistently. I trust a friend who tells me promptly when they can't help more than one who agrees and then disappears.