

# What is honesty?

When you think of honesty, you might think “don’t lie”. But being honest also means only saying and doing things that are truthful. Here are a few good signs that an action is not honest:

- Saying something that is not true is dishonest.
- Hiding the truth because you know it’s wrong or you’ll get in trouble is not honest.
- Tricking, cheating, and stealing are ways of not being truthful in your actions and they are dishonest .

*In these situations, which actions are honest?*

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## You broke a table. Your mom asks who broke the table.

- a. You tell her you did it.
- b. You say you don’t know what happened.

Explain your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Honesty means telling the truth, so admitting to breaking the table is the honest action.

## You really want to play with a friend’s toy at your house.

a. You slip the toy in your backpack and figure you’ll put it back tomorrow. As long as he doesn’t find out, you didn’t lie.

- b. You ask to borrow the toy.

Explain your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Taking something that is not yours is dishonest. Even if you don’t get caught, so you don’t **speak** a lie about what you did, doing it was still dishonest. Sneaking and hiding your actions usually means you are not making an honest choice.

## Your mom said you could play computer for 30 minutes and set a timer.

a. When the time is almost up, you secretly add more time on the timer so you can keep playing.

- b. You stop playing when the timer rings.

Explain your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Adding more time to the timer is dishonest. It is deceitful—meaning you hide what you do because you know you aren’t supposed to do it.

## You went to Joey’s to play, and then went to Austin’s without asking. When your dad asks, “Whose house did you play at today?” :

a. You say, “I played at Joey’s.”

- b. You say, “I played and Joey’s and Austin’s.”

Explain your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Being honest means telling the whole truth. Hiding part of truth is called a lie of omission—which means you leave out part of the truth because you know it was the wrong thing to do.