



## "Truthfulness" vs. Deception

"Earning future trust by accurately reporting past facts."

**I will:**

- ◆ Tell the truth.
- ◆ Encourage others to tell the truth.
- ◆ Not cheat or steal.
- ◆ Admit it when I am wrong.
- ◆ Not exaggerate to make things seem different than what they are.

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### What is Truthfulness?

"Truthfulness" comes from the Old English word "treowth," which means firm, steadfast, solid. That is what real truth is like—something solid and unchanging. Ideas that change and shift are not truth.

A person who is truthful doesn't change or shift either, but always desires to live and speak the truth. He is the kind of person people trust. A truthful person is truthful all the time; if he weren't, people wouldn't know whether he was telling the truth or not. In other words, once a person is caught in a lie, it is hard for other people to trust him to be truthful in the future.

A truthful person will also be careful not to tell half-truths or exaggerate. He wants people to know the real facts and wants to encourage others to be truthful too.



In the story of Pinocchio, his nose grew longer every time he told a lie. Trying to hide a lie leads to more lies and finally, the truth comes out!



### What does truthfulness look like?

1. Admitting when you broke your neighbor's window
2. Respecting your brother's property by asking to borrow his new shirt and returning it in good condition.
3. Getting the facts straight before you tell a story.
4. Not exaggerating when you tell about a fish you caught.
5. Encouraging your friend to admit to his mom that he broke her favorite dish.
6. Not remaining silent when Mom asks who left the door open if you did it.



A lie is like a boomerang that comes back to hit you in the head!

## Joyfulness in Nature The African Lion



Lions speak the truth. In other words, lions "aren't ly'un". They use their tail, mouth, and posture to let others know exactly what they intend to do. In the same way, people can learn to trust us when we always speak the truth.

Imagine yourself walking down the sidewalk when, suddenly, you see a lion walking toward you. Don't panic! Look at his tail; it always tells the truth. If his tail hangs down in a long flowing curve and the tip points upward, don't worry. That is a lion's "friendly" greeting. However, if the tail sticks

straight out and the tip twitches back and forth, it could mean that the lion is on the hunt for some dinner!

A lion also speak the truth with its ears. When its ears rest loosely, a lion is relaxed and content. On the other hand, if a lion pins its ears flat against its neck, watch out! He is preparing to attack.

You can also read a lion's lips. When a lion curls just one lip, it is only mildly irritated. However, if it raises both sides of its mouth and wrinkles its nose showing its big, sharp teeth, you really better watch out! The lion means business and could charge at any time.

So the next time you are walking down the street and meet a lion, remember that you can trust him to tell the truth. You can always tell what a lion is thinking, because lions always speak the truth.

Not only do we need to be like lions and speak the truth, but we must also judge the truth. It is extremely important to discern the difference between the truth and a lie—between real and make-believe. We need to recognize when we are being lied to and refuse to believe things which are not true. Oftentimes, refusing to listen to a lie is just as important as speaking the truth.

—written by Kelly Sorge; concept by [Character First](#)

### Memory Work

"I will always tell the truth,  
Even when it's hard to do,  
I'll encourage those around me  
So that they'll be truthful too.

I'll admit when I am wrong;  
I will not exaggerate.  
And though I may be tempted,  
I will never steal or cheat.

Commitments are important steps  
To guard us from disaster,  
And just to show we know them well,  
Let's say them even faster."

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