

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?

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.