

## 30 REASONS KIDS LIE

Children *[even very small]*, Youth, even Adults

Compiled by pjm, based loosely on Eleanor E. Maccoby. Social Development. HBJ, p. 315

1. personal gain
2. fear of shame, jail, rejection, punishment or consequences, loss of love, pain
3. deception
4. to shift blame
5. past experience of telling truth has been negative: non-forgiveness, uncontrolled fury, resentment, financial consequences,
6. avoid punishment
7. don't want to bring painful memories into the open
8. don't think it is any of your business, wished you had just asked a different question
9. game to fool others
10. reciprocities, tit for tat
11. one uppance
12. helpfulness, get friend out of a jam, kindness because truth might hurt feelings, keep secret
13. pride
14. safety from disapproval by strangers or family or friends
15. truly didn't know truth
16. confused
17. didn't understand the question or truthfully answered a question you didn't ask
18. look good *[noble]* to you
19. receive special favors
20. liars & deceivers are admired by his/her friends
21. well intentioned, wanted to help you
22. out of habit even though it might have been more convenient to tell the truth
23. suspicion that your question is designed to trick
24. half truth
25. to cope, just make it through the day
26. believes that "fibs" don't count as lies
27. believes that the intention counts but the words don't
28. defuse the atmosphere and make things more pleasant
29. truth might irritate and halt progress
30. switching between honesty and lying keeps friends, teachers, and parents off balance.
31. \_\_\_\_\_

To whom do they lie? Hardened liars make a point to lie to everybody.

friends	parents	teachers	cops
girlfriends	boyfriends	librarians	guidance counselors
store owners	anybody	IRS	boss
fellow workers	people they love	people they hate	

What do they lie about?

about people they love	about people they hate
bragging about doing kind things	about doing unkind things <i>[even falsely]</i>
claim <i>[or deny]</i> to be dumb <u>or</u> smart	how many friends they have
about being athletic	about being klutzy
about being rich <i>[even if not rich]</i>	about being poor <i>[even if not poor]</i>
about being pretty or ugly	about grades whether good or bad
how they treat others	
pay grade <i>sometimes exaggerate, sometimes understate</i>	

Why do kids steal?

*The list is almost as long as lying, another blog*