

Is This Honesty?

Is This Honesty? is a customizable classroom activity that teaches the essence of honesty to young children of all ages.

It requires very few materials and follows easy rules to help students distinguish between speaking and acting the truth, or demonstrating dishonesty.

- *Part One* outlines a basic version of this game that can be played with kindergarten-aged students; it simply asks them to distinguish between “truths” and “lies”.
- *Part Two* presents three scenarios for slightly older kids, inviting them to consider different vignettes. They must then decide whether they agree or disagree with the characters’ actions in each story.

Materials:

- Cards & Markers
- For *Is This Honesty?*: Scenarios (See *Part Two*)

Part One: Truth or Lie?

1. Prepare a line on the floor dividing the classroom into two. On one side, place a card that says “*Truth*,” and on the other, a card reading “*Lie*.”
2. Explain the rules of *Truth or Lie* to the students: “*Today, I’ll be saying a few sentences. Your job is to listen carefully and decide whether I’m telling the truth or telling a lie. If you think I’m telling the truth and being honest, step over to the side of the line with the card saying ‘Truth’.* If you believe I’m being dishonest and telling a lie, step over to the other side, where it says ‘Lie.’”
3. Some example sentences might include:
 - *I’m wearing a jacket today...*
 - *Right now, it’s really rainy outside...*
 - *I’m the oldest person in this classroom...*

Part Two: Is This Honesty?

1. On one side of the classroom, place a card that says “*Strongly Agree,*” and on the other, place a card reading “*Strongly Disagree.*”
2. Divide the class into three equally-sized teams of students and outline the rules of the game:
“Today, we’ll be sharing our thoughts on three different scenarios. Your team will head to the wall somewhere between these two cards depending on how much agree or disagree with the character’s behavior in each situation. If you’re undecided, stay in the center of the room or halfway between the two cards - you may not all end up in the same place!”
3. Read out the scenarios below, one for each team, then pose the accompanying questions for each.
4. Ask the students in the team to walk to the sign that corresponds with their agreement or disagreement with the characters’ actions. Let them know that there is in-between space that they can use to indicate stronger or lesser agreement with the characters’ behavior. Then ask a couple of the students why they chose to stand where they did. Have the team return to their seats.

Scenario 1:

James and Peter are brothers who come from a poor family. James knows that Peter has been making money as a cab driver after dark - but Peter doesn't legally have a driving license.

While he's finally started to make some money with this cab-driving job, Peter has almost had several accidents involving pedestrians.

Concerned, James heads to the police to tell them about what Peter has been doing.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with James' actions? How about Peter's behavior?

Scenario 2:

Taylor has been struggling in school and is worried about failing the final exam. On the day of the big test, she's nowhere near prepared.

Her friend Mira is in another class and has already sat the exam. She remembers all the questions and answers and shares them with Taylor.

Taylor memorizes everything as best she can, then sits the test.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with Taylor's actions? How about Mira's actions?

Scenario 3:

Bindra orders a steak at a restaurant and eats all of it. He asks for the bill, but when he reaches into his pocket, he realizes he's forgotten to bring his cash.

The waitress, June, can tell how embarrassed Bindra is and feels bad. She knows that with the boss away, she can tear the bill up and let Bindra leave without paying - so she does.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with June's actions? How about Bindra's?

