

# LESSON 4 HONESTY AND DECEPTION

# 4

As society grows more complex, we become more dependent on others for our information. We tend to accept as true whatever reaches us through ordinary communication channels. Perhaps because only a small number of people have specialized knowledge of what is going on in a particular field, it is sometimes easy to fool others. Therefore, we need to learn to distinguish between fact and opinion in the news media and to become aware of deceptive advertising techniques. With effort, we can become informed citizens and consumers.

The words in this lesson describe different aspects of honesty and deception. By studying these words and the concepts they express, you may be better able to recognize truth and detect dishonesty.

## WORD LIST

devious  
duplicity  
fictitious  
guileless  
gullible  
hypocritical  
masquerade  
overt  
reputable  
veracity

## DEFINITIONS

After you have studied the definitions and example for each vocabulary word, write the word on the line to the right.

1. **devious** (dē'vē-əs) *adjective* a. Done in an underhanded manner; tricky; shift. b. Straying from a straight or direct course. c. Departing from the correct or proper way; erring. (From the Latin *de-*, meaning "away from," and *via*, meaning "road")

**Related Words** *deviously* *adverb*; *deviousness* *noun*

**Example** The young child quickly learned *devious* methods for getting attention.

2. **duplicity** (doo-plis'ī-tē, dyoo-plis'ī-tē) *noun* Deliberate deception or trickery by speaking or acting in two different ways concerning the same matter. (From the Latin word *duplex*, meaning "twofold")

**Related Word** *duplicitous* *adjective*

**Example** *Duplicity* is often referred to as "double dealing" or "bad faith."

3. **fictitious** (fik-tish'əs) *adjective* a. Adopted or assumed in order to deceive; false. b. Of fiction; imaginary; unreal. (From the Latin word *fictus*, meaning "made up" or "untrue")

**Related Word** *fictitiousness* *noun*

**Example** The spy gave a *fictitious* chronology of his activities in the city.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
See *duplicity*.

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
USAGE NOTE: *Devious* and *duplicitous* are close in meaning, but *duplicitous* suggests treachery and is more extreme than *devious*.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. **guileless** (gīl'īs) *adjective* Free of slyness or craftiness; simple and innocent. 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
**Related Words** *guile* *noun*; *guilelessly* *adverb*  
**Example** The children's *guileless* account of the incident was accepted as true.
5. **gullible** (gūl'ə-bəl) *adjective* Easily deceived or fooled. 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
**Related Word** *gullibly* *adverb*  
**Example** Cary was so *gullible* that he believed that striped paint came in spray cans.
6. **hypocritical** (hīp'ə-krīt'ī-kəl) *adjective* Pretending to have some desirable or publicly approved attitude; insincere. (From the Greek word *hypokrinesthai*, meaning "to pretend") 6. \_\_\_\_\_  
**Related Words** *hypocrisy* *noun*; *hypocrite* *noun*; *hypocritically* *adverb*  
**Example** Tartuffe is a *hypocritical* character who pretends to be kind and generous.
7. **masquerade** (mäs'kə-rād') *intrans. verb* To have or put on a deceptive appearance; to wear a mask or disguise. *noun* a. A dance or party at which masks and fancy costumes are worn. b. A disguise or false outward show; pretense. c. An involved scheme. (From the Arabic word *maskharah*, meaning "buffoon") 7. \_\_\_\_\_  
**Example** The stowaway *masqueraded* as a member of the ship's crew.
8. **overt** (o-vûrt', ō'vûrt') *adjective* Open and observable; apparent. (From the Old French word *ovrir*, meaning "to open") 8. \_\_\_\_\_  
**Related Words** *overtly* *adverb*; *overtness* *noun*  
**Example** The cat hissed when the child made an *overt* attempt to grab it.
9. **reputable** (rĕp'yə-tə-bəl) *adjective* Having a good name; well thought of; honorable. (From the Latin word *reputare*, meaning "to think over") 9. \_\_\_\_\_  
**Related Words** *reputably* *adverb*; *reputation* *noun*  
**Example** A *reputable* company should guarantee its products.
10. **veracity** (və-rās'ī-tē) *noun* a. Devotion to the truth; honesty. 10. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Conformity to truth or fact; accuracy and precision. (From the Latin word *verax*, meaning "true")  
**Example** The *veracity* of his testimony was supported by other witnesses.