

# Crossroads Talk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter May, 2016

## Why Do People Lie?

There are many different types of lies, as well as varying degrees of lying. Most people claim to have a problem with lying, yet everybody lies. Some people, known as compulsive liars, lie all the time... even when there is no reason to. But what are the reasons for this universal habit?

Researchers claim that people lie in 20 percent of their daily interactions, or between 100 and 200 times per day. These lies come in many forms. Often, people only want to reveal parts of the truth they feel are acceptable for public consumption, hiding the full truth in the process. Sometimes, people tell "white lies" to make other people feel better. In general, though, people lie by exaggerating, omitting important information or controlling the content of conversations.

But why specifically do people indulge in lying? One explanation is fear... people are afraid of the consequences of their actions, so lie to cover their tracks. Another motivation for lying is manipulation, or getting people to either do something or not do something. Furthermore, people lie because of pride – they simply want to create a favourable impression of themselves. The big problem with lying is it becomes a habit and soon you find yourself caught in a web of lies. It's a sick situation that can ruin relationships, hurt others and damage integrity

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## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

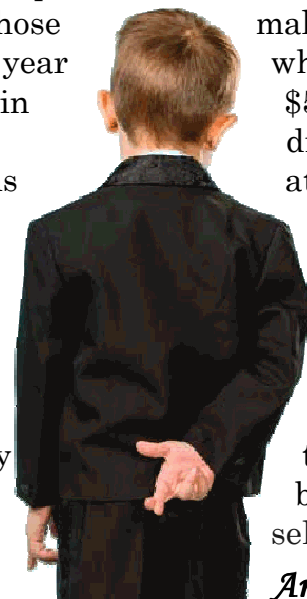
.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Find out how to tell if someone is lying to you here:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Detect-Lies>

So how do you know if someone is lying to you? The most obvious way is to examine the person's body language. Avoiding eye contact is the classic sign someone is lying. Or if their eyes dart to the upper left, it signifies they are trying to create an image (accessing the left hemisphere of the brain); the upper right means they are recalling a memory. It is these subconscious actions that show you the reality of a person's claims. Another thing to watch out for is inconsistencies in the story of the speaker. If they are changing minor details each time they recount their story, or their claims don't make logical sense, there's a good chance you are being lied to. There are many other variables at play when someone is not telling the truth, so you need to consider all the signs on show.

Interestingly, researchers from Harvard and Duke Universities have discovered that intelligence doesn't necessarily correlate with lying but creativity does. People who work in creative occupations were found to be more likely to construct lies to justify their dishonest actions. In addition, it was found that the \$150,000-plus-per-annum income group was four times as likely to cheat as those making less than \$15,000 a year when playing a game to win \$50. Moreover, the rich didn't stop for at a crosswalk as often as the less wealthy pedestrians. The reason for these phenomena is that any intrinsic trait, leads to breaking. The solution: self-awareness.



*Article by Colm*

# Some Thoughts for the Month



**Joshua Says:** Here is an interesting fact: the cutting edges on the teeth of a Western saw are set in the opposite direction to those on a Japanese saw. This means that when a piece of wood is being cut, the cutting action is in the opposite direction – push to cut in the West and pull in Japan. This fact can be seen as an analogy for a fundamental difference in syntax between Japanese and most Western languages. In the West, the action starts with the subject (carpenter) who pushes towards the object (wood); in Japan the action starts by pulling from the object (wood) towards the subject (the carpenter).

**Junko Says:** The Japanese Ministry of Education is now planning to introduce a new testing system in 2019 for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade junior high school students. In this test, new sections are going to be added on the conventional reading and writing tests. There will now be listening and speaking tests as well; the listening ability test will use a DVD and the speaking ability test will be a face-to-face interview with teachers. I am wondering who these teachers will be...



**Mark Says:** The world is currently enthralled with the crazy goings on in the 2016 American Presidential election cycle. However, ridiculous politicians are not the sole domain of America. The Philippines have just elected a new President who makes Trump look like a saint. Rodrigo Duterte was elected despite his shocking rape jokes, boasts of womanizing and stories of the people he has had killed. Just like Trump and other populist politicians he has gained power by playing to people's fears and ignorances.

**Colm Says:** Last week saw the United Nations publish their latest Happiness Index, which ranks the countries of the world in terms of the happiness of their people. It turns out that Denmark is the happiest country in the world. Other Scandinavian countries, as well as Canada and New Zealand, were ranked in the top ten. Japan's ranking of 53 makes no sense to me at all.



**Danielle dit:** En France, il y a en général onze jours fériés par an, dont deux ou trois en mai. Le 1<sup>er</sup> mai, la fête du travail, est le seul jour férié obligatoirement chômé et payé, sauf cas spécial. Le 8 mai, fête de la Victoire de 1945, est également férié. Malheureusement, ces deux jours fériés tombent un dimanche et en France, on ne les récupère pas le lundi qui suit.

## ACROSS

- 1 keeping out of the way of
- 3 not in agreement
- 5 being different in some way
- 6 destroy
- 8 influence something for personal gain
- 11 enjoy to excess without restraint
- 13 a result caused by a certain action
- 14 having a mutual relation
- 15 a pattern of behavior
- 16 obsessive habitual behavior

## DOWN

- 2 honesty, truthfulness, reliability
- 4 leaving out
- 7 a remarkable development
- 9 convey r express a meaning
- 10 describe something that has happened
- 12 make visible or known ([print version here](#))

## Play A Game!

