



EduTrend Contents

P4C · TRUTH AND HONESTY · PRIMARY

Pretend or Lie?

Actors, magicians, jokes and surprise parties: when is saying something untrue not a lie?

Ages 8–11

Level: Developing

45 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 02

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 02 · AT A GLANCE

Pretend or Lie?

Pupils sort cards showing people saying untrue things: an actor playing a villain, a magician pretending a coin vanished, a friend keeping a surprise party secret, a child saying they brushed their teeth when they did not, and a player bluffing in a card game. They decide which are lies and why, then create questions and enquire into what makes something a lie.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- classify examples using reasons;
- identify features of a lie;
- use borderline cases;
- build on others' ideas.

KEY WORDS

lie · pretend · intention · trick · secret · honest

CURRICULUM LINKS

Drama: acting. English: fiction and truth. PSHE: honesty.

1**STIMULUS**

Share something to think about

2**THINK**

Quiet thinking time

3**QUESTION**

Create and choose a question

4**ENQUIRE**

Reason together

5**BUILD**

Agree, disagree, add

6**REFLECT**

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Pretend-or-lie cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 02 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Sort the pretend-or-lie cards.	<i>“What did you notice?”</i>
8–18 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>“Which question is most interesting to talk about?”</i>
18–40 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other’s ideas.	<i>“What is the difference between pretending and lying?”</i>
40–45 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>“Has your thinking changed?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Write a definition of a lie that fits all the cards you sorted.

ACTIVITY 02 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Many philosophers say a lie involves saying something you believe is false in order to make someone believe it.

Borderline cases like bluffing help pupils find which features matter.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Every untrue sentence is a lie.” Fiction and jokes are different.
- “Secrets are lies.” Not saying is different from saying something false.
- “Lies are always big.” Small ones count too.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use four cards only.

Stretch

Write your own definition of a lie and test it on the cards.

WORKSHEET 1

Pretend or lie?

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Sort and explain.

Pretend or lie?

Card	Lie or not?	Why

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Is it a lie if everyone knows it is not true? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Pretend or Lie? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Truth and Honesty programme (primary, level: developing). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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