



Intermediate plus_Advanced minus

Lies, a Part of Human nature

Lesson Objectives

- To explore certain aspects of human nature that cause people to lie
- To learn vocabulary about lies
- To have conversations using vocabulary about lying

Classroom Learning Activities

Activity 1

Name of Activity – Define Human Nature

Resources Needed for Activity

- Human Nature Definition Chart

Procedure for Activity

1. Define: What does “human nature” mean?

The nature of human beings; especially : the ways of thinking, acting, and reacting that are common to most or all human beings or that are learned in social situations.

Human nature is used for the behavior of people, like their response to something, or how they think, what they like, things like that.

2. Use “human nature” in a sentence? Can you give examples?

EX. The characteristics of human nature include being (1) playful, (2) seeking scientific knowledge, (3) language and indulging in gossip, (4) eating meals, (4) developing societal legislation and (5) being clandestine.

Other animals may do these things, but it is the way in which humans have developed and exhibit these characteristics that sets them apart.

Activity 2

Name of Activity – Read the article “**Lies a Part of Human nature**” with the students, and define the vocabulary.

Resources Needed for Activity

- Copies of the article to hand out to students. One copy for pairs. *After class, collect the article to use for the next class.*

Procedure for Activity

1. Read the article emphasizing the vocabulary words.

ARTICLE (for teachers)

Lies, a Part of Human Nature

Everyone lies. In fact, lies are an important facet of humanity. For example, research shows that two acquaintances lie several times in the average ten minute conversation. Although we are told to always tell the truth from a very young age, parents lie about Santa Claus or about the pet dog’s death. Parents also smile and say “thank you” when receiving a gift, then possibly belittle it at home. These conflicting messages signal children to regard lies as okay.

We lie to ourselves all the time to make problems, fears, and failures seem less troublesome. A New Year’s resolution can be considered a lie, too, because in most cases we don’t intend to keep the promise -- we’ve only deceived ourselves. Or consider the next time a friend or colleague asks, “How are you?” That person doesn’t want to hear that you’re tired, overworked, underpaid, and have problems with your significant other. Social rules demand that you reply, “I’m fine.”

Psychologist Paul Ekman offers some basic reasons for lying. We lie to escape punishment, to get out of uncomfortable situations, to boost our egos, to receive a reward, to protect someone, or to control the flow of information. Everything from a large exaggeration to a small lie falls into one of these categories.

Despite the fact that lying is an indivisible part of our psyche, we can only catch a lie about fifty percent of the time. The success rate is quite low, and suggests that we don’t want to know that another person isn’t being honest. Lies, some experts suggest, are the glue which holds society together. Underlined words in red typeface are the recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

2. Define: Define each word, correctly pronounce it, explain the meaning and/or usage, and offer an example sentence to the class.

FACET	one side of something many-sided, especially of a cut gem, a particular aspect or feature of something, any of the individual unit
ACQUAINTANCE	a person one knows slightly, but who is not a close friend
BELITTLE	make (someone or something) seem unimportant or trivial
REGARD	If you hold someone in high regard , you have a lot of respect for them.
INTEND	plan that (something) function in a particular way
DECEIVE	cause (someone) to believe something that is not true, typically in order to gain some personal advantage
COLLEAGUE	someone you work with at your job
EGO	Your ego is your conscious mind, the part of your identity that you consider your “self-image”. Sense of self-importance.
FLOW	A flow is an act of moving or running smoothly, a movement of water or the continuous moving of ideas, stories, etc.
INDIVISIBLE	Indivisible is defined as something unable to be divided into equal parts or split. An example of indivisible is a friendship that cannot be broken.

Activity 3

Name of the activity. Vocabulary review

Procedure for the activity

1. Vocabulary match: Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B.

A	B
___ facet	1. friend
___ acquaintance	2. movement
___ belittle	3. lie
___ regard	4. mean
___ intend	5. self-image
___ deceive	6. feature
___ colleague	7. view
___ ego	8. unbroken
___ flow	9. trivialize
___ indivisible	10. coworker

Activity 4

Name of Activity—Discussion

Procedure for activity

1. Prepare four groups of conversation Questions. Cut the groups into four strips to hand out to students.
2. Divide the class into pairs or groups depending on the size of the class.
3. Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers! (Do the questions one at a time for each group.)

Activity 5

Name of Activity--Idioms about lies

Procedure

1. Write the idioms on the whiteboard. Discuss and define the idioms
2. Have students use the idioms in sentences

STUDENT HANDOUT

Lies, a Part of Human Nature

Everyone lies. In fact, lies are an important **facet** of humanity. For example, research shows that two **acquaintances** lie several times in the average ten minute conversation. Although we are told to always tell the truth from a very young age, parents lie about Santa Claus or about the pet dog's death. Parents also smile and say "thank you" when receiving a gift, then possibly **belittle** it at home.

These conflicting messages signal children to **regard** lies as okay.

We lie to ourselves all the time to make problems, fears, and failures seem less troublesome. A New Year's resolution can be considered a lie, too, because in most cases we don't **intend** to keep the promise -- we've only **deceived** ourselves. Or consider the next time a friend or **colleague** asks, "How are you?" That person doesn't want to hear that you're tired, overworked, underpaid, and have problems with your significant other. Social rules demand that you reply, "I'm fine."

Psychologist Paul Ekman offers some basic reasons for lying. We lie to escape punishment, to get out of uncomfortable situations, to boost our **egos**, to receive a reward, to protect someone, or to control the **flow** of information. Everything from a large exaggeration to a small lie falls into one of these categories.

Despite the fact that lying is an **indivisible** part of our psyche, we can only catch a lie about fifty percent of the time. The success rate is quite low, and suggests that we don't want to know that another person isn't being honest. Lies, some experts suggest, are the glue which holds society together.

Discussion Group Strips for Activity 4

Group 1

1. What are some of the reasons people lie?
2. Do you have any friends who often lie? If yes, what do they lie about?
3. Do you trust people easily? Why/not?
4. What would you do if you saw a classmate cheating on a test? What if he were a friend? What if he were someone you didn't like?
5. What is the difference between a lie and an exaggeration?



Group 2

1. Do you think lies hold society together? Why/not?
2. If a store clerk gave you too much change, would you tell him? Why/not?
3. When is lying a good thing? Why do you think so?
4. Everyone lies every day.
5. It's impossible not to lie sometimes.
6. Would you lie at a job interview?



Group 3

1. Do you think it would be possible to be 100% honest for one week? How about one month? Why/not?
2. What situations would it be better to lie than to tell the truth? Why do you think so?
3. Do you agree or disagree? The best liars are politicians. Why/not?
4. What would you do if you found a \$100 bill lying in the street? What if that \$100 were in a wallet? Please explain.
5. Would you lie on a job resume? Why/not?



Group 4

1. Who lies more, men or women? Why do you think so?
2. Are white lies okay? Why/not?
3. What would you do if you saw someone shoplifting? What if he were a friend? 4. What if he were a family member?
5. Lying is an important part of society.

Idioms Chart:

Lie through your teeth

No lie?

Little white lie

Pack of lies

Live a lie

Exaggeration

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DECEIVE	cause (someone) to believe something that is not true
COLLEAGUE	someone you work with at your job
EGO	Your ego is the part of your identity that you consider your "self image"..
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IDIOM CHART

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Exaggeration