Honesty is Still the Best Policy

Part 1

I _______ on the Internet the ________ day that we all _______ an amazing number of _______ every _______. According to the article we very ______________ say exactly what we think. In most cases we prefer to _______ the truth _______________ hurt other _____________ feelings. Usually we believe we are _______ polite or respectful of _______ but in _________ fact we simply cannot _________ telling others _______ they do not ___________________. Are people really ready for the ___________________ and nothing but the truth? _______ it ___________ to tell a “little white _______” or be __________ if there is no ___________?

We live in a _______ where dishonesty is ______________ taken for _________. We ___________________ to tell lies. We expect them to ______________ promises that they will never be able ________. We expect businessmen to try to ______________ television viewers by ______________ deceitful advertising. We expect students __________ by using ______________ in their written work. We even expect pollsters to give __________ results of ___________ in order to influence our opinions ______________. But ___________ terrible to __________ we ________ in a world where ______________ seems to be honest? _______ my opinion _____________ are ______________ honest than we expect them _______.

Part 2

A few months _______ I ______ on a train with a friend __________. We were returning _______ from a short ______________ the center of town, and we _______ a lot of shopping

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with us. We all the trip, so we the sign of our home station the train was ready to . When we finally it was time to get off, we our bags and of the wagon. We on the platform totally.

When the train I suddenly realized that I didn’t have . I only remembered it on the me. I was and said that this was the . My friend that I would find my purse again, but I didn’t believe a word . We and I told her that I that purse again.

inside I someone the purse and back to me.

When we home there was a for . Someone the wagon my purse. That person the station at the stop and the purse. I believe my . I would get my purse ! But I realized that there who believe that “Honesty is the .”

VOCABULARY to be learned and used often

- a friend of mine: notice the possessive form “mine”
- a great number of people: many people
- a little white lie: a lie that doesn’t seem serious
- a lot of… (with a verb in the plural)
- a survey: a gathering of a sample of data or opinions considered to be representative of a whole.
- about to leave as in “the train was about to leave, when …”: the train was on the point of leaving/on the verge of leaving…
- according to (someone) N.B. never say: according to me
- broadcasting: from the verb “to broadcast” meaning to transmit a signal
chat: converse in a friendly way
cheat: to cheat someone or to cheat on something
dash: to hurry
deceitful: very dishonest
decency: honesty
expect (someone to do something): anticipate someone will do something or that something will happen
face telling someone something: to have the courage to tell someone directly the truth
fair: just (e.g. fair play)
get my purse back: find my purse again, have it returned to me
get off: get out of a train, bus or plane
give back (gave back / given back): return to owner
go (went) straight to: to go directly to...
go home: go to where one lives
honesty: the opposite is "dishonesty" (N.B. silent "h": we do not pronounce it, also a silent /h/ in "honor", "hour")
huge: enormous, very big
in actual fact: really, in truth
in most cases: very often, more often than not
in my opinion: according to my ideas (Never say:” according to me”).
keep telling me: to continue telling me
leave off: to deposit (an object)
lies: statements that are not truthful
more or less: approximately
most importantly: above all
newspaper: printed paper with the news
out of breath: having difficulty breathing
pick up: take from the ground, from a chair, seat or table
policy: a course of action, guiding principle, or procedure considered advantageous
politicians: a person actively involved in politics, who holds or seeks a political office.
pollster: a person who does public-opinion surveys
purse: a woman’s handbag (U.S.)
rather than: meaning “and not…” or “instead of…”
remember doing something (+ING): remember a past action; N.B. “remember to do something” involves an action in the future or at least occurring after the act of remembering
seat: a designated place in a train, bus, plane, car, hall
seldom: rarely, not often
still: even as in “even today” or “including the present time
take advantage of: to profit from
take for granted that… or to take it for granted that…: to consider as true, real, or normal
tell the truth: to say what is true; the opposite of “to tell a lie”
upset: sad, agitated, disconcerted
• **whenever they can**: each time they can…
• **whole**: entire
• **without**: the opposite of “with”
• **wonder if / wonder whether**…: to ask oneself if / whether

**Structures to be learned**

I read on the Internet / read in the newspaper / heard on the radio / saw on television
the other day… (a way to talk about the recent past without saying when exactly)
whenever they can (each time they can…)
there are…(to be compared with “they are…”, “they're…”)
we expect people to tell… (we anticipate that people will tell…)
I wonder if… or “I wonder whether” (“I ask myself.”)
to take advantage of someone (to gain profit from someone)
a friend of mine (Remember we also say: a friend of his / hers / ours / yours / theirs)
he went straight to… (he went directly to…)
more than…
rather than…

**Structures not in the monolog to be learned**

• **Future conditional**—probable event

   *If I pass all my exams, I'll be very happy.*

   I think I will pass the exams. They are in the future, so I have a chance of passing them.

• **Hypothetical conditional**—improbable event

   *If I found a $100 (hundred dollar) bill in the street, I would go to the police.*

   I don’t think I will find a $100 bill in the street. It could possibly happen, but the chances of finding a $100 bill in the street are very slight. The probability is very uncertain.

• **Impossible hypothetical conditional**—impossible event

   *If I had found a $100 bill in the street, I would have gone to the police.*

   I didn’t find a $100 bill in the street in the past, but I am thinking about what my reaction would have been if I had found one.