

"QualityTime-ESL" presents...



Your English No. 18

Honesty is Still the Best Policy (Part 1)

Hi. I'm Marianne. My goal is to help my listeners improve their spoken English. The topic of this episode is "Honesty", which has always been a very controversial issue and is perhaps even more so today. This is a timeless subject as there have always been cases of dishonesty in sports, business, scientific research or international affairs. Nowadays there is much talk about WikiLeaks and its founder Julian Assange.

Listen to the first part of the recording in this episode followed by a "listen-and-repeat" section. At the end there are some questions to answer or think about? Then go on to part two in podcast number 19. So let's get started.

Honesty is Still the Best Policy

I read on the Internet the other day that we all tell an amazing number of lies every day. According to the article we very seldom say exactly what we think. In most cases we prefer to avoid the truth rather than hurt other people's feelings. Usually we believe we are being polite or respectful of others, but in actual fact we simply cannot face telling others what they do not wish to hear. Are people really ready for the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Isn't it easier to tell a "little white lie" or be dishonest, if there is no penalty?

We live in a world where dishonesty is more or less taken for granted. We expect politicians to tell lies. We expect them to make huge promises that they will never be able to keep. We expect businessmen to try to take advantage of television viewers by broadcasting deceitful advertising. We expect students to cheat by using plagiarism in their written work. We even expect pollsters to give inexact results of surveys, in order to influence our opinions in one way or another. But isn't it terrible to say that we live in a world where no one seems to be honest? In my opinion people are far more honest than we expect them to be.

Now listen and repeat.

Honesty is Still the Best Policy

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Finally, speak to yourself aloud for two minutes on each of the following themes:

1. Are there times when it is better not to tell the truth, i.e. are there any limits to "honesty"?
2. Should students, doctors, lawyers, engineers, athletes, bankers, etc. be severely punished for cheating?
3. To what extent can we trust the media when they are privately owned or even when they are public services?
4. Do certain TV ads give a dishonest picture of the product being promoted?

That's the end of this episode. We will return very soon with new texts or dialogs for you to listen to, repeat, complete and/or comment on. If you want additional practice you can try our other series "QualityTime-ESL Podcasts" and "5-Minute TOPs". For more information go to our website www.qualitytime-esl.com. Thank you all for listening. Bye for now.