**Dishonesty**

**Alexa, can you tell me a big lie? Alexa has been telling users that the 2020 presidential election was stolen, said Cat Zakrzewski in The Wasshington Post. Until recently, Amazo0n’s smart-device assistant answered prompts about the 2020 election by saying it was “stolen by a massive amount of election fraud,” citing Rumble, a video-streaming service. Alexa also said the 2020 races were “notorious for many incidents of irregularities and indications pointing to electoral fraud” and “contended that Donald Trump won Pennsylvania.” An Amazon spokesperson said that Alexa works with “credible sources” during elections. Other times, it will draw data from “Amazon, licensed content providers, and websites like Wikipedia.” Other voice assistants, like Apple’s Siri and Google Home, accurately disputed claims of election fraud. *(The Week magazine, October 20, 2023)***

**What lies are you going to tell your kids? I already have a list. No. 1: "We can't get a dog. I'm allergic." *(@ramit (Ramit Sethi), writer and founder of IWillTeachYouToBeRich.com)***

**Amazon has banned more than 5,700 of its top reviewers over the past two years, suspecting that many had received cash or gift cards to write positive reviews of products*. (Businessinsider.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, Noivember 9, 2018)***

**An ambassador is an honest man sent to lie abroad for his country. *(Henry Wotton, English diplomat)***

**There's an annual gap of nearly $300 billion between what all individual taxpayers owe the IRS and what they actually y. Eighty percent of the shortfall comes from under-reported income, especially from business activities. *(CNNmoney.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 15, 2005)***

**Amn Austrian couple married sand divorced 12 times over 42 years in an alleged scam to draw multiple welfare payments. The wife, nowq 73, received a widow’s pension from the government after her first hushand died in 1981. officials said. Her second marriage a year later**

**A good lie finds more believers than a bad truth. *(German proverb)***

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**The people who golf have a big advantage over the people who fish. When golfers lie, at least they don’t have to show anything to prove it. *(Ron Dentinger)***

**The biggest lie in America, according to Norman Chad of Sports Illustrated, is: “The game’s almost over. I’ll be there in a minute.” *(Tom FitzGerald, in San Francisco Chronicle)***

**If you think fisherman are the biggest liars in the world, ask a jogger how far he runs every morning. *(Larry Johnson, "Hotline")***

**A truth that's told with bad intent / Beats all the lies you can invent. *(William Blake)***

**Occasional liars blink more frequently when they lie. Habitual liars don’t. Or so researchers have observed. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When I was a little boy, they called me a liar. But now that I am grown up, they call me a writer. *(Isaac Bashevis Singer, Nobel Prize in Literature, 1978)***

**Fiction is the lie through which we tell the truth. *(Albert Camus)***

**Honesty may be the best policy, but it’s important to remember that apparently, by elimination, dishonesty is the second-best policy*. (George Carlin)***

**Never chase a lie. Let it alone, and it will run itself to death. *(Lyman Beecher)***

**They say that in the end truth will triumph, but it's a lie. *(Anton Chekhov)***

**Bad week for: Honesty, after researchers at Toronto University found that the earlier a child starts telling convincing lies, the more likely he is to be a success later in life. "Those who have better cognitive development lie better, because they can cover up their tracks," said researcher Dr. Kang Lee. *(The Week magazine, May 28, 2010)***

**Lies are like children. If you don’t nurture them, they’ll never be useful later*. (R. K. Milholland, comic author)***

**“When we get home,” the mother lectured her three young sons in the backseat of the car. “I want you all to clean your rooms because relatives are coming over. They’ve never been to our house before, and I want it to look tidy.” Her nine-year-old finally broke a lengthy silence, “But isn’t that kind of like lying?” *(The PassTime Paper)***

**Truth to Tell: Arizona has had its share of colorful characters. Dr. Benjamin Baker Moeur, for example, gave up his physician’s practice in Tempe to serve two terms as governor in the 1930s. He is reported to have once said to a woman, “Honey, you’re getting better looking all the time.” “Thanks,” she is reputed to have replied, “I wish I could say the same for you.” “You could,” the governor answered, “if you were as good a liar as I am.” *(Arizona Highways)***

**No matter how much you’ve been complaining about the food, as soon as the waiter asks you how things are, you always say “Fine.” *(Roger Simon, Los Angeles Times Syndicate)***

**Truth is confirmed by inspection and delay; falsehood by haste and uncertainty. *(Tacitus)***

**Bill Meinel of Burlington, Wisconsin, claims his wife changed her mind about paint colors so many times that their 1,800-square-foot house shrunk to 1,000 square feet. He won the 2003 World Champion Liar Contest, sponsored by the Burlington Liars Club. *(Marti Attoun, in American Profile magazine)***

**The curse of totalitarian governments is that they kill people for telling the truth; do that enough times, and you end up with a nation of liars. *(David Von Drehle, journalist)***

**I remember the time I cut classes in high school to attend one of the first Minnesota Twins games of the season. While exiting with some 30,000 fans after the contest, I had the misfortune of bumping into our stern assistant principal. He didn’t say a word. That night I couldn’t sleep wondering what would happen to me the next day. As I waited to be summoned from homeroom, a PA announcement informed us that the assistant principal was feeling much better after being out sick the day before. I never heard a thing, then or later, about my absence. *(Carl Morrison, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Deceiving someone for his own good is a responsibility that should be shouldered only by the gods. *(Henry S. Haskins, in Meditations in Wall Street)***

**Fast-fingered employees were responsible for about 44 percent of the retail merchandise that went missing from retail stores in 2011, costing employers roughly $15 billion. Retailers are now wising up and using databases to track employees who are caught red-handed, excluding them from future employment in the retail sector. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 12, 2013)***

**In a recent poll of 500 financial workers in the U.S. and Britain, 24 percent said they believe unethical or illegal behavior could help people in their industry be successful. Sixteen percent said they would commit insider trading if they knew they’d get away with it. *(Reuters.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 20, 2012)***

**Bad week for: Rewriting history, after Tennessee Tea Party activists demanded that the state legislature change curricula and textbooks to omit negative views of the Founding Fathers. Teachers should stop repeating “an awful lot of made-up criticism about, for instance, the Founders intruding on the Indians or having slaves or being hypocrites,” said a Tea Party spokesman. *(The Week magazine, February 3, 2012)***

**As much as $135 billion in fraudulent pandemic unemployment insurance claims were likely paid out from April 2020 to May 2023, according to new estimates by the Government Accountability Office. That equates to about 15 percent of total unemployment benefits distributed during the pandemic. *(The Hill, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 29, 2023)***

**Until the U.S. Post Office laws were strengthened in the 1870s, a big and profitable mail-order business was the selling of mechanical devices to help gamblers to cheat. Known as “advantage tools,” these devices included marked cards, loaded dice, cutters and trimmers for shaving edges on cards, sleeves and vests for holding extra cards, and “shiners” or “spies” for reading the opponents’ cards. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 424)***

**A 4-year-old was asked to give the blessing before Thanksgiving dinner. As family members bowed their heads in expectation, the child began. First, the youngster thanked God for each friend, naming them one by one. Then the child thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and aunt and uncle. Next, the tyke began to thank God for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the Cool Whip. Then the child paused. Everyone waited -- and waited. After a long silence, the youngster looked up. “If I thank God for the broccoli, Mom,” the child asked, “won’t God know that I’m lying?” *(Good Clean Fun web site)***

**Once there was man who was such a golf addict that he was neglecting his job. Frequently he would call in sick as an excuse for play. One morning, after making his usual call to the office, an angel up above spotted him on the way to the golf course and decided to teach him a lesson. “If you play golf today, you will be punished,” the angel whispered in his ear. Thinking it was only his conscience, which he had successfully whipped in the past, the fellow just smiled. “No,” he said, “I’ve been doing this for years. No one will ever know. I won’t be punished.” The angel said no more and the fellow stepped up to the first tee where he promptly whacked the ball 300 yards straight down the middle of the fairway. Since he had never driven the ball more than 200 yards, he couldn’t believe it. Yet, there it was. And his luck continued. Long drives on every hole, perfect putting. By the ninth hole he was six under par and was playing near-perfect golf. The fellow was walking on air. He wound up with an amazing 61, about 30 strokes under his usual game. Wait until he got back to the office and told them about this! But, suddenly, his face fell. He couldn’t tell them. He could never tell anyone. The angel smiled. *(Bits & Pieces) 8229117***

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**A great lie is like a great fish on dry land: it may fret and fling and make a frightful bother, but it cannot hurt you. You have only to keep still, and it will die of itself. *(George Crabbe)***

**The greatest lie ever told about love is that it sets you free. *(Zadie Smith, author)***

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**The true income of the average Greek citizen is almost twice what is reported to the government, according to a new study of Greek bank data. In 2009, some $34 billion in income went unreported. Taxes on that income would have accounted for 31 percent of the country’s budget deficit that year. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 20, 2012)***

**A half truth is a whole lie. *(Yiddish proverb)***

**It is twice as hard to crush a half-truth as a whole lie. *(Austin O'Malley)***

**People who write fiction, if they had not taken it up, might have become very successful liars. *(Ernest Hemingway)***

**We lie loudest when we lie to ourselves. *(Eric Hoffer, in The Passionate State of Mind)***

**Men hate those to whom they have to lie. *(Victor Hugo)***

**If everybody always lies to you, the consequence is not that you believe the lies, but rather that nobody believes anything any longer. *(Hannah Arendt)***

**Truth exists; only lies are invented. *(Georges Braque)***

**The great enemy of truth is very often not the lie – deliberate, contrived, and dishonest – but the myth – persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic. *(John F. Kennedy)***

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**Fiction is the truth inside the lie. *(Stephen King)***

**The trust of the innocent is the liar’s most useful tool. *(Stephen King)***

**Only enemies speak the truth; friends and lovers lie endlessly, caught in the web of duty. *(Stephen King)***

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**Of all the liars in the world, sometimes the worst are your own fears. *(Rudyard Kipling)***

**Sixty-five percent of people say that cheating on your income tax is worse than cheating on your spouse. The other 35 percent were women. *(Jay Leno)***

**No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

**The 50 largest American companies made about $4 trillion in profits from 2008 to 2014. About a quarter of that amount was kept outside the country via more than 1,500 subsidiaries in tax havens like the Cayman Islands, costing the U.S. about $111 billion each year in lost tax revenue, according to a report by Oxfam America. *(TheAtlantic, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 29, 2016)***

**Good week for: Irony, after The New Yorker reported that Mark Meadows, former President Trump’s chief of staff, listed a rented North Carolinamobile home as his residence when registering to vote in 2020 – even though neighbors say he never even spent a night there. *(The Week magazine, March 18, 2022)***

**The U.S. paid more than $47 billion in questionable Medicare claims last year, nearly three times the amount of fraudulent claims paid out the previous year, a federal watchdog reports. Bogus claims include prescriptions issued in the names of long-dead doctors. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 27, 2009)***

**Washington, D.C., is to lying what Wisconsin is to cheese. *(Dennis Miller)***

**A liar needs a good memory. *(Quintilian)***

**Eight of the country’s 10 largest nonprofit, tax-exempt hospital systems spent less than 2 percent of their revenue on charity care. Harvard-affiliated Mass General Brigham was lowest, with charity care receiving just 0.41 percent of its $16 billion in revenue. *(Ars Technica, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 3, 2023)***

**First man: “Truth is dead. I’ve written its obituary. Truth, the key building block in human cultural evolution, was pronounced dead today. Friends said truth had been ailing for years, plagued by political and corporate duplicity. The final cause of death was lies.” Second man: “Parachute accident would’ve been cool.” *(Darrin Bell & Theron Heir, in Rudy Park comic strip)***

**Wealthy individuals and corrupt politicians have stashed about $7.6 trillion in offshore tax havens, economist Gabriel Zucman has estimated. That's 8 percent of the world's wealth. *(Vox.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 15, 2016)***

**We always hear of "old fashioned" honesty -- but dishonesty has quite a long genealogy, too. *(Bill Vaughan, in Kansas City Star)***

**Overheard: “I wouldn’t call him a liar. Let’s just say he lives on the wrong side of the facts.” *(Orben’s Current Comedy)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**People do not believe lies because they have to, but because they want to. *(Malcolm Muggeridge, author)***

**People never lie so much as after a hunt, during a war, or before an election. *(Otto von Bismarck)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**After a minor accident, my mother accompanied me to the emergency room. Now, I’m five feet, three inches tall and pleasantly plump – not exactly Brad Pitt. But when the nurse asked for my height and weight, I blurted out, “Five-foot-eight and 125 pounds.” As the nurse paused to check her eyesight, Mom leaned over to me. “Sweetheart,” she gently chided, “this isn’t the Internet.” *(Bob Meyerson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**A politician running for office visits a small rural town and says to the mayor, "I want to help you. What are your needs?" "We have two basic needs," the mayor replies. "First we have a hospital but no doctor." Hearing this, the politician pulls out his phone, and after speaking for a while tells the mayor, "Don't worry, a doctor will be there soon. Now, what's the second problem?" "We don't have cell-phone reception." (PLANET PROCTOR NEWSLETTER)**

**The rectory of a Catholic church in Indianapolis maintains a book where priests who compete in weekly golf matches post their scores. The book is entitled The Lies of the Saints. *(Fred W. Fries, in Reader's Digest)***

**Psychologists insist a person who lies takes a little longer to answer questions than one who tells the truth*. (L. M. Boyd)***

**More than 30 percent of the world’s 200 richest people – with a collective net worth of $2.8 trillion – control their fortunes through offshore holding companies that hide assets from tax authorities and lawsuits. *(Bloomberg.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 10, 2013)***

**Since 2021, Americans have lost $2.7 billion in scams from social media, the Federal Trade Commission said, drawing on nearly 258,000 social media fraud instances reported to the federal agency. More than half the money reported lost went to investment scammers. *(CBSNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 20, 2023)***

**The liar’s punishment is not that he is not believed, but that he cannot believe anyone else*. (George Bernard Shaw) 9209023***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**And That’s The Truth*:* At the end of his Sunday morning, adult Bible class, a pastor said to the attendees, “Next week, we will talk about the sin of lying. To help you be prepared for the class, I want you to read Mark 17.” The following Sunday as he began the Bible class, the pastor asked for a show of hands of w10ho had remembered to read Mark 17. Nearly every hand went up. The pastor smiled, then he calmly informed everyone: “Mark has only 16 chapters. So now, let’s begin our class on the sin of lying.” *(The Lutheran Witness)***

**A minister told his congregation, “Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17.” The following Sunday, before he started his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. “How many of you read Mark 17?” Every hand went up. “Mark has only 16 chapters,” the minister said. “I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying.” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

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**Son: "Mom, can I borrow fifteen bucks?" Mom: "What for?" Son: "There's a good song on this CD." Mom: "One song? Can't you just download it?" Son: "I thought you said that was stealing." Mom: "It is stealing, but putting out a fifteen-dollar CD with one good song on it is grand theft!" *(Jerry Scott, & Jim Borgman, in Zits comic strip)***

**Crankshaft: “So just because they won the championship last year, don’t let them scare you! Remember what I told you about how I struck out the great Hank Greenberg with a simple change-up!” First Player: “Before you said it was a fastball!” Second player: “Yeah, whazzup with that?” Crankshaft: “Okay, so maybe the story’s not factual, but it’s true!” *(Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers, in Crankshaft comic strip)***

**Isn't it a pity how we are surprised at someone's honesty but not at anyone's deceit? *(Rosalyn Hart Finch)***

**Falsehood flies, and truth comes limping after it. *(Jonathan Swift)***

**If every Fortune 500 company paid taxes on its profits sheltered overseas, the U.S. government would receive $717.8 billion, according to a new study co-authored by U.S. PIRG Education Fund and Citizens for Tax Justice. The windfall would easily cover the entire 2015 federal budget deficit of $439 billion. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 14, 2016)***

**The teenagers aren’t all bad. I love ‘em if nobody else does. There ain’t nothing wrong with young people. Jus’ quit lyin’ to ‘em.” *(Jackie “Moms” Mabley, American singer and comedian)***

**One Sunday our minister's sermon topic was "thou shalt not steal." He began by making all those who had stolen something -- no matter how insignificant -- to raise their hands. Many hands went up, and the pastor himself admitted that he had been guilty. He then preached on the sin of stealing. The following Sunday, the homily theme was "lying." Our minister began by saying, "Last week, I asked all those who had ever stolen to raise your hands. These were some who didn't. This sermon is for you." *(Jean Vander Hoek, in Reader's Digest)***

**The true number of Covid deaths is 44 percent higher than the official count of 420,000, according to a data analysis of nearly 800 counties. Undercounting was most prevalent in counties that supported President Trump, the analysis found, with many Covid deaths simply not diagnosed or reported as such. *(StatNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 5, 2021)***

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**Donald Trump made 30,573 false or misleading claims during his four years in office. He averaged six such claims a day in the first year, 16 in the second, 22 in the third, and 39 a day in the final year – including more than 800 repetitions of the Big Lie that the 2020 election was stolen. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 5, 2021)***

**Did voters choose Donald Trump because they hoped he would cut spending to Medicaid, lifesaving cancer research, Head Start, and Meals on Wheels? That he would send ICE into schools to terrify immigrant children and citizen children alike? That he would throw into chaos every state and local agency and charity across America that gets federal funding. Of course not. All of these actions are lifted straight from the 900-page Heritage Foundation policy tome known as Project 2025, a plan to effectively destroy most of the federal government. Ahead of the election, Trump swore up and down that he had nothing to do with the document, didn’t know who wrote it, and didn’t agree with its radical contents. Once he won, though, he appointed many of its authors and contributors to agency and even Cabinet posts. And now, it’s his entire governing agenda. Fooled you, America. *(Susan Caskie, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 7, 2025)***

**President Donald Trump pardoned or commuted sentences for the nearly 1,600 people convicted or charged in connection with the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot, Among those pardoned were hundreds of rioters convicted of assaulting police with bats, pipes, hockey sticks, bear spray, and other weapons. Trump called them “patriots” who’d been railroaded by federal prosecutors. Top Republicans, Vice President JD Vance, and Trump himself had previously said those who committed violence would not be pardoned. But Trump reportedly shifted gears at the last minute. The Jan. 6 pardons signal just how “untethered from norms” Trump’s second term will be, said Aaron Blake in The Washington Post. Many GOP lawmakers opposed pardoning violent offenders who injured more than 140 police officers, as did three-quarters of Americans, according to one poll. But none of that stayed his hand. *(The Week magazine, January 31, 2025)***

**What Trump and the MAGA movement want is a country where children are falsely taught that the United States has always been a beacon of righteousness. Despite our nation’s many virtues, the truth of its past is harrowing and complicated. Slavery, Jim Crow, Indigenous displacement and slaughter, anti-immigration laws, the suppression of women’s rights, and the history of violence against the LGBTQ community – these things sully the MAGA version of the American story. *(Clint Smith, in The Atlantic magazine)***

**Former President Trump’s insistence that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from him has cost taxpayers at least $519 million. That tally includes the costs of sending National Guard troops to Washington, D.C., defending against lawsuits, security for poll workers who faced death threats, and repairing damage to the Capitol after the Jan. 6 insurrection. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 19, 2021)***

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**The truth is not always honest. The captain of a ship once entered in his log, “Mate was drunk today.” When the mate found it out, he pleaded with the captain to cross it out. He said it was the first time he’d ever been drunk and it wasn’t fair. But the captain said, “In this log we always write the exact truth.” The next week the mate kept the log. In it he wrote, “The captain was sober today.” *(Bits & Pieces) 11159013***

**A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes. *(Mark Twain)***

**Every lie is two lies – the lie we tell others and the lie we tell ourselves to justify it. *(Robert Brault, writer)***

**About $17 billion in unemployment insurance benefits paid out over the past year – 11.6 percent of the total – was obtained through fraud, the U.S. Labor Department says. People are cheating the government mainly by continuing to cash checks after they find a job, or by claiming benefits for which they’re not eligible. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 15, 2011)***

**There are two ways of lying, as there are two ways of deceiving customers. If the scale registers 15 ounces, you can say: "It is a pound." Your lie will remain relative to an invariable measure of the true. If customers check it, they can see that they are being robbed, and you know by how much you are robbing them: a truth remains as a judge between you. But if the demon induces you to tamper with the scale itself, it is the criterion of the true which is denatured, there is no longer any possible control. And little by little you will forget that you are cheating. *(Denis de Rougemont, in Catholic Digest)***

**Policeman: “You were going 62 in a 45 mile per hour zone. Were you in a hurry?” Drabble: “Why, no, sir! I was just on my way to donate blood and then to do volunteer work at my local church!” Son who is riding in the front seat then says: “I thought you were going to the liquor store to buy lottery tickets!” Drabble: “Shush!” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

**Those who think it’s permissible to tell white lies soon become color-blind. *(Austin O’Malley) 9209010***

**Without lies, humanity would perish of despair and boredom. *(Anatole France, poet)***

**Lies written in ink can never disguise facts written in blood. *(Lu Xun, author)***

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