Quiz: Are You Trustworthy?

The more lies people tell, the less likely others are to trust them. All of the people featured in *Can I See Your ID?* were trusted when they were telling lies. For some, lying was necessary to saving their own lives. In everyday life, people tell lies for all kinds of reasons. Some lies are “no big deal” and have few, if any, consequences. Other lies are destructive and can have larger implications if they are caught. The question is, can people trust YOU?

For each question below, write your most LIKELY response. Do not write what you think the correct answer is; rather, write which you are most likely to do.

1. You have a big test coming up tomorrow that you have not studied for. You:
   a. Copy off your friend’s test.
   b. Fake a stomach ache, stay home, and skip the test.
   c. Stay up until midnight studying and hope for the best.
   d. Take the test and know you earned whatever grade you get.

2. Last week, you were in an argument with your best friend, and she vandalized your front lawn. It was a huge mess that took your dad hours to clean on Saturday. You and your friend have since made up, but your parents suspect you know who did it. When they ask you who you think did it, you tell them that:
   a. You don’t know
   b. You prefer not to say
   c. Your best friend did it when she was mad at you.
   d. It was your sister’s boyfriend. You can’t stand him anyway.

3. You are babysitting your neighbor’s children, who fell asleep an hour ago. The parents won’t be home for at least two more hours. To keep yourself busy, you:
   a. Look around the parents’ bedroom to see if there is anything interesting to do or see.
   b. Watch TV on the couch in the living room.
   c. Wash the dishes you used for the kids’ dinner.
   d. Logon to the mom’s laptop and surf the web.

4. Someone you don’t like very much tells you a very juicy piece of gossip about another person you don’t like very much. She swears you to secrecy. You are most likely to tell:
   a. No one at all
   b. Your best friend
   c. Only the person the gossip is about
   d. The friends you sit with at lunch
5. Your mom tells you to take money for your lunch today from her purse. Lunch costs $2, but your mom’s purse has 5 one-dollar bills. You would love to treat yourself to cookies at lunch, too. You are most likely to:
   a. Take $3 from her purse. Cookies only cost 50 cents, and you’ll have enough left over to buy chips, too!
   b. Take $5 so you don’t have to ask for lunch and cookie money again tomorrow.
   c. Take $5 so you can buy lunch and extra cookies for yourself and several friends.
   d. Take $2 and ask if you can have an extra dollar for cookies.

6. You got in trouble for not answering your cell phone last weekend when you were roller blading with your friends. You really were roller blading and just didn’t hear the phone, but your parents freaked out anyway and took your phone away for two weeks. This morning, your parents have already left for work, and your phone is sitting in your dad’s nightstand. You get home from school before your parents, so they’ll never know if you take it for the day. You:
   a. Take the phone and put it back in the nightstand as soon as you get home.
   b. Leave the phone in the nightstand. You don’t want to make things with your parents worse.
   c. Check the phone for messages, send a few texts, then put it back in the nightstand.
   d. Take the phone with you and decide you’ll hide it from them when you get home. Your parents should not have left it out where you could get to it so easily.

7. Your parents asked you to walk the dog when you got home today. You:
   a. Take the dog on a long walk so you can both get some fresh air and exercise.
   b. Let the dog run around the back yard. You’ve been at school all day and are pooped.
   c. Walk the dog to the mailbox and back. Judge Judy’s coming on!
   d. Let the dog out the front door. He’ll come back on his own.

8. You find a note on the floor at school. It has someone else’s name on the outside fold. You:
   a. Open the letter and read it.
   b. Don’t read it and deliver it to the person whose name is on the front.
   c. Throw it in the trash.
   d. Leave it on the floor. It’s none of your business.

9. While chasing your little cousin around the house, you break a vase in your aunt’s bedroom. No one but you knows what happened. You are most likely to:
   a. Tell your aunt that you broke the vase and that you are sorry.
   b. Convince your little cousin that he did it, that it was an accident, and that he needs to tell his mom.
   c. Leave the broken vase on the floor and pretend nothing happened.
   d. Tell your mom you saw a broken vase in your aunt’s room.
10. Last night, your mom made a delicious cake for dessert. Your little sister fell asleep before she got to eat her cake, so your mom put it in the refrigerator for her to eat later. You are starving when you get home from school, and that cake just looks so yummy. Your sister won’t be home for another hour. You:

   a. Eat all of the cake. If she doesn’t see it, she probably won’t remember it was there.
   b. Eat just a few bites and leave the rest for your sister. She’ll never notice a few missing bites.
   c. Eat half of the cake and hope she doesn’t notice.
   d. Leave the cake for your sister and find something else to eat.

Results:

Give yourself the following points for the answers you chose:

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0-15 points—Untrustworthy! Your parents question your every move for a reason. Whether you copy someone else’s work, blab your friends’ secrets, or fail to complete your chores, you are the only person who can change your behavior. When people can trust you, doors will open for a more successful, happy life. You might want to take time to think hard about ways you can become more trustworthy. Speaking the truth (no matter the consequences), following through on promises, and learning to trust others are all ways you can increase your trustworthiness.

16-23 points—Somewhat trustworthy—Some people trust you, and some people do not. When you look over your answers to this quiz, think about the answers and the points-values they received. How do the 3-point answers make you more trustworthy and the zero-point answers make you less trustworthy? How can you become more responsible, reliable, and honest in your everyday life?

24-30 points—Trustworthy! You are to be commended for your honesty and reliability. People trust you to do the right thing, and most of the time, you follow through on that. Being trustworthy and reliable all the time is not always easy, so kudos to you making good choices!