

# The **WHITE LIE** Pie



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One of the most important things parents can teach their children is honesty. But there is a big gray area called the "white lie," and it's not easy to define. We lie about Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy - because it's fun. We lie about our own problems when we tell people that everything is fine - so they don't worry. We lie when we say someone made a beautiful painting or wrote a beautiful poem — when it's not. We lie when we say we're happy to see Aunt Margaret's husband, who cheats on her — when we're not. It's important to know the difference between a real lie and white lie so that we can act appropriately respectful, polite, and kind in situations that call for such behavior.

But it's tricky: One way to know if it's a real lie or a white lie is to ask ourselves the six questions on the WHITE LIE PIE. If the answer to ANY of these is yes, then it's a real lie — and it's wrong. We tell a white lie when we are trying to protect someone else from unnecessary hurt, damage, or loss (who doesn't deserve to be hurt or experience the loss), AND there is no gain to us for doing so.

When children see us worried or sad, there is no point in unloading our honest fears about problems they are too young to handle, so a white lie is okay. And when we don't tell everyone the truth about Aunt Margaret's husband, it's because we are saving her the unnecessary embarrassment. Again, we don't gain anything from lying, so a white lie is okay.

It's easy to convince ourselves that a lie is just a white lie because we want something. People do it all the time. Understanding the difference makes it easier to do the right thing when the time comes.

For each of these life situations, ask yourselves the six questions on the WHITE LIE PIE. Be totally honest. If the answers to ALL six are NO, you can comfortably call it a "white lie. Talk about these situations before making a decision. They are emotional issues, and it helps to hear each other's perspective. Sometimes it's a moral dilemma and there is no right or wrong answer. When a lie pops up in real life, you'll be ready to put it to the test.

# The WHITE LIE Pie



The six questions you should ask yourself.

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Mike told his mom he was texting back and forth with a friend who needed help with math, when he was really playing games and didn't get his homework done.

Is this a  
white lie or  
a real lie?

Julie had a crazy day and her husband is out of town. She completely forgot the tooth fairy. Her son is upset and she explains that it was too windy and the fairy will surely try again tonight.

Is this a  
white lie or  
a real lie?

Beth visits her friend Debbie, who just had a baby. Debbie is proudly gushing and says, "Isn't he adorable?" Beth can see that he clearly is not, but says "Oh, yes he is beautiful."

Is this a  
white lie or  
a real lie?

Bobby missed two days of school because he didn't want to go to Disneyland on the weekend when it was crowded. His mom wrote a note saying he was sick with a cold.

Is this a  
white lie or  
a real lie?

Laura hears her mom talking to a friend on the phone, saying she can't make it to her daughter's recital because she has an unbreakable appointment. But Laura knows that it's not true.

Is this a  
white lie or  
a real lie?

Dan, a divorced dad, was supposed to pick up the kids for the day on Sunday. He calls and cancels, saying he is sick, when he really has a hangover from too much partying.

Is this a  
white lie or  
a real lie?

Sharon is at a clothing store with her good friend, who is trying on dresses to wear to an upcoming event. She asks if the dress makes her look fat - and it does. Sharon says it looks great.

Is this a  
white lie or  
a real lie?

Vicky made cookies for a club meeting and when she was ready to leave she noticed half were gone. All three of her kids said they had not eaten them, when clearly one or more of them had.

Is this a  
white lie or  
a real lie?

David asks Janice to the prom. Then she gets a more exciting offer from Derek and tells David she sprained her ankle and can't go. She goes with Derek, hoping she won't see David.

Is this a  
white lie or  
a real lie?

John wasted so much time playing video games that he was an hour late arriving at a friend's house for dinner and a sleep-over. He said he got stuck behind a big accident on the way over.

Is this a  
white lie or  
a real lie?

Stan gets back from a fishing trip with a bunch of buddies and brags all day at work about the huge 10 foot Blue Marlin he caught. It was really only half that size.

Is this a  
white lie or  
a real lie?

Veronica brings her new boyfriend home to meet the family. She is head over heels in love. Nobody likes him, but they say "he seems like a nice guy, we're so happy for you."

Is this a  
white lie or  
a real lie?

Dylan is at a friend's house. His mother serves meatloaf (which Dylan hates) and asks if he likes it. He says "It's delicious, better than my mom's." She serves it every time he comes over.

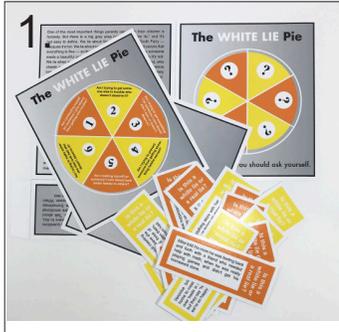
Is this a  
white lie or  
a real lie?

Ken's boss is excited and praising him about a project he just completed. Ken accepts the compliment and takes all the credit for the work - even though his co-worker did half of it.

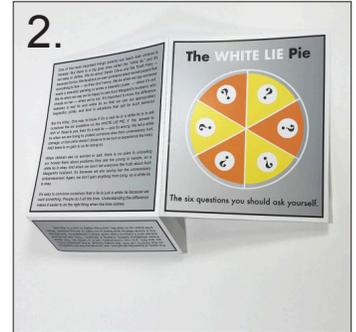
Is this a  
white lie or  
a real lie?

# Instructions for The WHITE LIE Pie

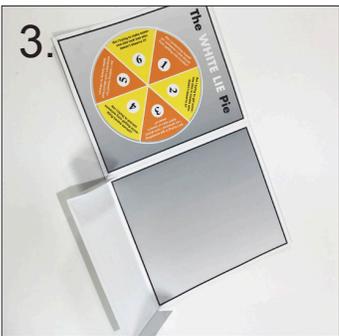
**MATERIALS NEEDED:** You'll need paper that is heavier-than-normal weight for printing. Staples has a great Professional Business paper by HP that is 48 lbs and prints beautiful colors on most home printers. You'll also need scissors, a glue stick, and a table knife (to crease folds). Print 1 copy of pages 2, 3, and 4.



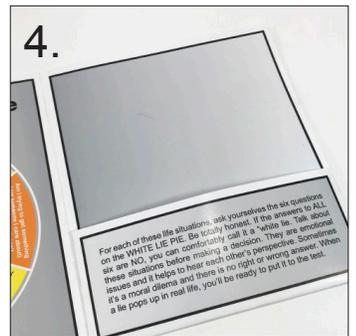
1. Cut all printed pieces just inside the dotted grey outlines.



2. Fold on the dotted lines between the front and the back plus the pocket on the bottom and the two pocket flaps as shown in image #2. Crease the four folds with your thumbnail or the smooth edge of a table knife.



3. Glue the two separate rectangles from page 3 onto the inside (unprinted side) of the folded piece from image #2. If you line up the outside corners, there will be a sliver of empty space in the center, which makes it easier to fold.



4. Generously glue the two pocket tabs, fold the pocket up and secure it onto the empty gray panel. Hold it in place until dry. Put the closed folder under a heavy book for an hour or so to flatten.

5. Place the orange and yellow question cards into the pocket and you are ready to go.

