

## DISHONESTY

Dishonesty and Deception are interrelated. To deceive someone is to mislead them intentionally, though often by insinuation. To be dishonest to someone is to tell them an outright lie. There is, though, an interrelation between the two behaviours. To mislead a person is to insinuate that so and so is the case, while knowing that it is not. To tell a person an outright lie is graver than to mislead them. Yet there are cases in which an outright lie, because it can be verifiably demasked, is easier to deal with than a deception.

Language as a whole is the product of social interaction, and, not surprisingly, is a breeding ground of those interpersonal malefactions for which our kind is noted. Deception, of course, has to be foremost in any account we give of the ways we do not level with one another in speech. (Oscar Wilde was right when he wrote that 'language is the way we hide our thoughts from one another.')

There is no way we could deal with language transactions did we not pre filter our opinions and attitudes before entering the forum with our fellow citizens. Among our socially available strategies, of course, is the lie, in the use of which we forsake all of the more fastidious strategies offered to us by the social action of language. To lie is to give in to the poor planning by which you have let yourself become trapped and defenceless.