

## Honesty and dishonesty in business

We would all like to think that our business was 'legal, decent and honest'. We would also like to believe that our business not only enriched our employers but also made the world a better place.

In business the reputation (or 'good name') of a company is very important. Recently, I wanted an electrician to come and do some work in my house. I asked my neighbours to recommend an electrician. This is what they said:

1. "The cheapest electrician is Alf Todd, but I've heard his work is a bit dodgy and he's not completely trustworthy. He didn't steal anything from my house, but there's no smoke without fire."
2. "Alf Todd? Well, not to beat about the bush, I know he's been guilty of sharp practice in the past but now he's going straight. Now he's beyond reproach."
3. "Leonard Grass is quite expensive but he has high standards. He's straightforward. He'll tell the truth about what you need in your house and charge a fair price."
4. "Don't trust Alf Todd. He's a liar and a crook. He is devious and completely unscrupulous."

Later I read the following article in the local newspaper:

### BEER BOSS GETS TEN YEARS

Sir Rufus Truscott, the corrupt boss of Baker's Beer Company was jailed for ten years today after being convicted of embezzling £3¼ million from Baker's. During his ten years as Executive Director of Baker's, he also accepted a bribe of £1¼ million from International Foods during the sale of Baker's chain of pubs.

## Vocabulary exercises

### Find the words which mean...

- a. l\_\_\_\_\_ *n* a person who says things which are not true.
- b. c\_\_\_\_\_ *n* a criminal
- c. l\_\_\_\_\_ *adj* lawful
- d. r\_\_\_\_\_ *n* the opinion that people have about someone or something because of what has happened in the past.
- e. d\_\_\_\_\_ *adj infml* seeming to be false, dishonest or not to be trusted
- f. d\_\_\_\_\_ *adj* following the moral standards that are acceptable to society
- g. s\_\_\_\_\_ *adj* honest about your feelings or opinions and not hiding anything
- h. u\_\_\_\_\_ *adj* behaving in an unfair or dishonest way, without any idea of what is correct
- i. e\_\_\_\_\_ *v* stealing money from the place where you work
- j. b\_\_\_\_\_ *n* money or a gift which you illegally give someone to persuade them to do something for you



## Expressions

Find the expressions which mean:

- a. s\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_ activity which is intended to deceive but is not strictly illegal
- b. b\_\_\_\_\_ r\_\_\_\_\_ *adj* completely respectable and reliable
- c. g\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_ v attempting to be honest after a period of dishonesty
- d. n\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_ *expr* when there is evidence of an activity, you must believe the activity has happened
- e. n\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_ *expr* to speak directly about something without avoiding anything
- f. a f\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_ *expr* a reasonable charge for goods or services

## Teacher's Notes

Encourage students to read the text. Encourage them to exchange their interpretations of unknown words and expressions before allowing them to consult dictionaries. The exercises should clarify any misunderstandings.

*Answers*

1 a] liar, b] crook, c] legal, d] reputation, e] dodgy, f] decent, g] straightforward h] unscrupulous i] embezzling j] bribe

2 a] sharp practice b] beyond reproach c] going straight d] no smoke without fire e] not beating about the bush f] a fair price

*Note: The texts are fictitious and do not refer to any real events or real people living or dead.*