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Vocabulary: honesty 词汇: 诚实

**Let's be honest** – I'm sure we've all done something a little **dishonest** in our lives – maybe copying someone's work, borrowing some money from a friend and not paying them back or being given too much change in a shop and keeping quiet about it. Or maybe I'm wrong, maybe you're a good, **upstanding** citizen who believes that **honesty is the best policy**.

This proverb, 'honesty is the best policy', was written back in the 1700s by American statesman, Benjamin Franklin. We may agree that **owning up** to our mistakes and behaving in a genuine and **decent** way, is the right way to lead our lives. But is there something in our human nature that makes us **unscrupulous**? For example, in some shops and car parks you can find an **honesty box** – a box where you pay for something by putting money in it – but it relies on you putting the right amount of cash in. This relies on people being honest and not trying to **cheat** but it does provide a **temptation** to get away with not paying the full amount.

Philip Graves, a psychologist, and author of the book *Consumerology*, suggests that this temptation is part of our **evolution**. He says: "We have evolved with the **capacity** to be dishonest. It's part of our **evolutionary psychological make up** – because if we gain an advantage over the people around us, we have a greater chance of surviving."

So why do we place such importance on being honest if we **benefit** from being dishonest? It's because it is **selfish** behaviour – which other members of our social group won't like. If everybody acted selfishly and dishonestly all the time, the world would be a very unpleasant place. As Philip Graves says: "There is a balance to strike between the extent to which we can **feather our own nest**, so to speak, and the risk of being **ostracised** by the group." So, for societies to work together we need to trust each other and therefore we need to be honest.

Being **trustworthy** with money is of course crucial for an economy to survive and there are laws to protect us from dishonest practices like corruption and **fraud**. But being honest with words is another matter; saying what we think to someone can **get us into hot water**. However a new anonymous messaging app has been designed that lets anyone with a link to your profile to send you a message without knowing who it's from. The app now has 300 million users which perhaps indicates how honest we really like to be – but **in all honesty**, do you want to know what people think about you? Is honesty always the best policy?!

## 词汇表

<b>let's be honest</b>	咱们诚实点，实话实说
<b>dishonest</b>	不诚实的
<b>upstanding</b>	正直的
<b>honesty is the best policy</b>	诚实是上策
<b>own up</b>	承认，坦白
<b>decent</b>	正派的
<b>unscrupulous</b>	不诚实的，没有道德原则的
<b>honesty box</b>	(没有服务人员时) 公众凭自觉与诚实去付款的容器
<b>cheat</b>	欺骗
<b>temptation</b>	有诱惑力的事情
<b>to get away with</b>	做(坏事)而未被发现
<b>evolution</b>	进化
<b>capacity</b>	能力
<b>evolutionary psychological make up</b>	演化心理学的记号、标签
<b>benefit</b>	从...受益
<b>selfish</b>	自私的
<b>feather our own nest</b>	从中得利，中饱私囊
<b>ostracise</b>	排斥
<b>trustworthy</b>	值得信任的
<b>fraud</b>	诈骗
<b>get into hot water</b>	陷入困境，使尴尬
<b>in all honesty</b>	老实说

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What does an honesty box rely on people doing?
2. According to psychologist Philip Graves, what is the advantage of being dishonest?
3. True or false: *Societies can trust each other if everyone behaves honestly.*
4. Which word used in the article means 'extremely important because it has a major effect on the result of something'?
5. Why do you think being honest with your words can be a bad thing?

### 2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Sam worked for an \_\_\_\_\_ employer and when it closed down he still hadn't been paid.

decent	cheat	unscrupulous	corruption
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2. Daisy finally \_\_\_\_\_ to breaking the window and was made to pay for repairing it.

owned up	owe up	own up	owed
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3. The car seller seemed \_\_\_\_\_ so we decided to buy from him instead of the garage down the road.

ostracised	trustworthy	let's be honest	unscrupulous
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4. Mandeep asked me what I thought of the film but \_\_\_\_\_ I couldn't really say that I enjoyed it.

in all my honesty	all in honesty	in all honesty	in all dishonesty
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5. I went to the bureaux de change around the corner and got a \_\_\_\_\_ exchange rate for my yuan.

decent	upstanding	trustworthy	benefit
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## 答案

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What does an honesty box rely on people doing?

**Being honest! Putting the correct amount of money in the box.**

2. According to psychologist Philip Graves, what is the advantage of being dishonest?

**He said if we can gain an advantage over the people around us, we have a greater chance of surviving.**

3. True or false: *Societies can trust each other if everyone behaves honestly.*

**True.**

4. Which word used in the article means 'extremely important because it has a major effect on the result of something'?

**crucial ("Being trustworthy with money is of course crucial for an economy to survive.")**

5. Why do you think being honest with your words can be a bad thing?

**It can offend people and upset their feelings.**

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Sam worked for an **unscrupulous** employer and when it closed down he still hadn't been paid.

2. Daisy finally **owned up** to breaking the window and was made to pay for repairing it.

3. The car seller seemed **trustworthy** so we decided to buy from him instead of the garage down the road.

4. Mandeep asked me what I thought of the film but **in all honesty** I couldn't really say that I enjoyed it.

5. I went to the bureaux de change around the corner and got a **decent** exchange rate for my yuan.