



Honesty is Strength

Learning Objectives

After completing this chapter, students will be able to:

- explain what honesty means and why it is a strength
- tell the difference between honest and dishonest actions
- explain how honesty builds a good name and trust
- choose to be honest even when no one is watching



Let us Begin

Think about these questions:

- ★ Have you ever owned up to a mistake that no one knew about? How did you feel?
- ★ Why do you think people trust an honest person?
- ★ Is it harder to be honest when you might get into trouble? Why?

Talk about your answers with your friends.



Introduction

Honesty means being truthful in our words and fair in our actions. An honest person does not cheat, steal or lie, and is the same whether others are watching or not. Honesty is not weakness — it takes real strength to admit a mistake or to return what is not ours. This inner strength earns us a good name and the lasting trust of others.



Understanding the Lesson

- Honesty means our words and actions are truthful and fair.
- An honest person behaves the same whether watched or not.
- It takes courage and strength to admit a mistake.
- Cheating may bring quick gain but destroys our good name.
- Honesty includes returning what does not belong to us.
- People place their trust in those who are honest.
- A good name, once earned, is more valuable than money.



Real-Life Example

During a class test, Rohan noticed the answer key lying open on the teacher's desk. He could have peeked, but he turned his eyes away and answered on his own. He scored a little less, but he walked home with a clear and proud heart.



Story

The Honest Shepherd

In a hilly village lived a poor shepherd boy named Devu, who grazed the villagers' sheep for a small wage. One evening, while leading the flock home, he found a heavy leather pouch lying on the mountain path. Inside it gleamed many gold coins — more money than he



had ever seen. His heart raced, with this gold his family would never be hungry again.

For a moment Devu thought of keeping it. But then he imagined the worried face of whoever had lost such a treasure. He knew the coins were



not his, and that keeping them would make him a thief in his own heart. So he carried the pouch to the village head and asked him to find the owner. Soon a wealthy merchant arrived, frantic and grateful, and identified the pouch as his.

The merchant was so moved by the boy's honesty that he offered him a job as the keeper of his accounts, trusting him with far greater wealth. 'I can trust a boy who returns gold he could have hidden,' he said. Devu's honesty had lifted his whole family out of poverty — not through the gold itself, but through the trust it had earned him.



Moral

Honesty may cost us in the moment, but it earns us trust that lasts a lifetime.



Key Values

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Trustworthiness
- Courage



Exercise

A. Knowledge Check (Understanding Basic Concepts)

Fill in the blanks using the given words.

trust, honesty, name, mistake

- _____ means being truthful and fair in all we do.
- An honest person earns the _____ of others.
- It takes strength to admit a _____.
- A good _____ is more valuable than money.



Tick (✓) the correct answer.

- An honest person behaves the same whether _____. (watched or not / only when watched)
- Admitting a mistake is a sign of _____. (weakness / strength)
- Cheating destroys our good _____. (name / luck)
- People place their trust in the _____. (dishonest / honest)

Write True or False.

- Honesty is a kind of weakness. (_____)
- An honest person returns what is not theirs. (_____)
- Cheating helps us in the long run. (_____)
- A good name is earned by being honest. (_____)

Match the columns.

Column A

- Honesty
- Dishonest
- Trust
- Reputation

Column B

- Firm belief in someone
- The good name we earn
- Being truthful and fair
- Not truthful

B. Understanding and Application

Answer the following questions:

1. Why is honesty called a strength and not a weakness?
2. Why did the merchant offer Devu a job?
3. Write two honest actions you can do at school.
4. Explain how cheating can harm us in the long run.

C. Real-Life Situations (Competency-Based Questions)

Read the situations and answer the questions.

Situation-1

You find a classmate's wallet with money in the playground.

1. What will you do?
2. Why is returning it the honest choice?

Situation-2

You gave wrong change to a shopkeeper and got extra money back by mistake.

1. Why is honesty important in everyday life?
2. Why does honesty matter even in small amounts?

D. Critical Thinking

Think carefully and answer:

1. Why is it sometimes harder to be honest than to lie?
2. Can a dishonest person ever feel fully at peace? Explain.
3. Why do we say a good name is hard to earn but easy to lose?

E. Value-Based Activity (Experiential Learning)

Keep an 'Honesty Log' for one week. Each day, note one moment when you chose to be honest, especially when no one was watching. Share one entry with the class.



F. Group Discussion (Discuss in groups)

Is it ever right to tell a lie to escape punishment?

Give reasons for your view. Write two examples from your discussion:

1. _____
2. _____

G. Project Work (Experiential Learning – NEP Requirement)

Find a short real story of an honest leader or worker. Write five sentences about how their honesty helped them, and present it to the class.

H. Self-Assessment (Reflection – NEP Core Component)

Tick (✓) the statements that are true for you.

1. I speak the truth even when it is hard.
2. I am honest even when no one is watching.
3. I return things that are not mine.
4. I do not cheat in tests or games.
5. I am proud of my good name.

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Before acting, ask: 'Would I do this if everyone could see me?' Choosing the honest path, especially in private, builds the quiet strength of a trustworthy character.