

# Test of Trustworthiness

"Trustworthiness is the greatest portal leading unto the tranquillity and security of the people." —Bahá'ú'lláh

66 **A**ndy, will you help me with math homework after school?"  
"No problem. Where do we meet?"  
"My house, at four o'clock. Promise?"  
"Sure, I'll be there."



It feels good when someone says they'll help you out, and they really show up at the right time and place. When people keep their promises, you know they respect and care about you. And when

you're trustworthy, friends know they can count on *you*. You do what you say you'll do, and you tell the truth, even when it's not easy.

If all people were trustworthy, we wouldn't have bullies, or gossip, or cheating on tests at school. Lying and stealing would disappear. Everyone would obey the laws. Can you imagine feeling so peaceful and secure?

## What Does Trustworthiness Look Like?

Choose the most trustworthy action to take in each situation.

1. You were up late playing video games, and you didn't finish your homework.

- A. Tell the teacher your brother needed the computer, so you couldn't write your essay.
- B. Tell the teacher you didn't finish, and ask if you can hand it in late.
- C. Tell the teacher you shredded it by mistake.

2. You're getting a bad grade at school, but you're afraid to tell your parents.

- A. Show them your report card, even though it's hard.
- B. Tell them your teacher must have mixed up your grade with someone else's.
- C. Change the D on your report card to a smiley face.

3. You're part of a group project, but one kid is doing all the work.

- A. Use the free time to write notes to your friends.
- B. Say, "We should all work on this. What can I do?"
- C. Wait to see if the kid asks for help.

4. You forgot to study for a spelling test, so you think about faking a stomachache to stay home.

- A. Ask your friend for answers in exchange for ice cream.
- B. Go to school and do your best on the test.
- C. Skip breakfast and try to look ill.

5. Your teacher thanks you for cleaning up the art room—but you didn't do it.

- A. Tell her who really did the work.
- B. Smile and take all the credit.
- C. Tell her you "had a little help."



6. You have plans to meet a friend, but you forgot about swimming practice.

- A. Call your friend and reschedule.
- B. Go to swim practice and don't worry about it.
- C. Send a sibling as a replacement for you.

7. At your neighbor's, you accidentally break an expensive vase.

- A. Sweep the pieces under the rug.
- B. Say nothing and sneak out.
- C. Explain what happened, apologize, and offer to replace it.



8. You find a wallet with 20 dollars in it at a store.

- A. Ask someone nearby if it's theirs. If not, keep it.
- B. Use the money to buy something, and leave the wallet.
- C. Take the entire wallet to the store manager.

9. Your parents gave you a cell phone for emergency use.

- A. Call your best friend just twice a day.
- B. Don't use the phone unless it's necessary.
- C. Call a friend long-distance and chat about the weather.