

**Tip for Success**

Internet chat rooms are a good place to practice writing in English. Many English language students do this. Don't worry about mistakes. People only want to know what you think.

## PREVIEW READING 2

You are going to read postings in an Internet chat room. In this chat room, parents talk about some of the problems they have with their children.

Skim the posts. What is Marisa worried about? Check (✓) your answer.

- not teaching soccer to her son
- not telling the truth to her son
- not punishing her son



Read the chat room posts.



Marisa

Is it ever OK for a parent to lie to a child? My 10-year-old son plays soccer. He's not very good, but he loves it. Yesterday he played very badly. When he finished the game, he said, "Did I play well?" I said, "Yes! You're a great soccer player!" Did I do the right thing?



Bay212

Yes, you did the right thing. You told your son a white lie<sup>1</sup>. Your **purpose** was to make him feel good. Now he's ready to play soccer again.



Bernie

In my **opinion**, you should be honest. Your son wanted to know the truth. He knew he didn't play well. In time, he will learn not to believe you. He will not **trust** you. He will not **respect** you. Honesty is the first step to a good parent-child **relationship**.



Missy

You lied to make your son feel better, but you missed an opportunity to teach him a life lesson. People need to work hard for what they want. Maybe next time you can say, "No, you didn't play well today. Great soccer players **practice** a lot. Let's go practice." The truth will make him strong and a good soccer player.

<sup>1</sup> white lie: a small lie that doesn't cause any harm



Pixie

What do you say to him when he plays a good game? Do you lie and say that he is a really great player so he believes you? Every lie **requires** five more lies.



HueyBoy

You worry too much. White lies are a necessary part of life. We need to lie to **avoid** hurting each other.



Linda

I don't think there is ever a good reason to lie to our children. I want my children to become honest adults. Children learn honesty from the examples they see. We need to be honest in order to teach honesty to our children.



Parviz

Children need honesty from their parents. Parents need to **avoid** lying, but they don't need to tell the whole truth. Next time, when your son asks, "Did I play well?" you can say, "What do you think?" Then your son can tell you what he thinks. That way, everything you say is true, and you avoid truth that hurts.

## MAIN IDEAS

Complete the chart. Check (✓) Yes or No.

Is it OK for Marisa to lie to her son about his soccer ability?	Yes	No
1. Bay212	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Bernie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Missy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Pixie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. HueyBoy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Linda	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Parviz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## DETAILS

Look at Reading 2. Why is it OK for Marisa to lie? Why is it not OK? Write all the reasons in the chart.

Reasons It's OK to Lie	Reasons It's not OK to Lie
<i>The son feels good about himself.</i>	<i>The son won't trust his mother.</i>

## Q WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**A.** Discuss the questions in a group.

1. Which person in Reading 2 do you agree with? Why?
2. Which person in Reading 2 do you disagree with? Why?

**B.** Think about both Reading 1 and Reading 2 as you discuss the questions.

1. What kinds of lies do parents sometimes tell their children?
2. Which lies are OK to tell children?

### Vocabulary Skill

### Collocations



#### Tip for Success

You can use a collocations dictionary to help you learn common collocations. You can also find collocation information in most dictionaries.

**Collocations** are words that often go together.

- ✓ make the bed
- ✗ do the bed
- ✓ do the dishes
- ✗ make the dishes

In the examples, *do the bed* and *make the dishes* are possible grammatically, but speakers do not use these words together. *Make the bed* and *do the dishes* are the collocations that we use. Learning common collocations will help you speak and write more naturally.