

CUNNING

Deceit, Dishonesty, Lying, Treachery, Treason, Disgrace and Shame

1. ESSENCE

- 677 We take cunning for a sinister or crooked wisdom.
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 678 Cunning...is but the low mimic of wisdom.
Bolingbroke (1678-1751)
- 679 Cunning is the art of concealing our own defects,
and discovering other people's weaknesses.
Hazlitt (1778-1830)
- 680 Dishonesty is a forsaking of permanent for temporary
advantages.
Bovee (1820-1904)

2. OPPOSITES

- 681 Deadly poisons are concealed under sweet honey.
Ovid (B.C. 43-18 A.D.)
- 682 In the mind of the wicked there is one thing; in their
discourse another; their conduct is another. In the heart,
in the speech, and in the conduct of the magnanimous there
is one and the same thing.
The Hitopadesa (600?-1100? A.D.)
- 683 Treason doth never prosper: what's the reason?
Why if it prosper, none dare call it treason.
John Harrington (1561-1612)
- 684 It is as easy to deceive one's self without perceiving it,
as it is difficult to deceive others without their finding
it out.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 685 Cunning to wisdom is as an ape to man.
William Penn (1614-1718)
- 686 Half the truth is often a great lie.
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 687 Falsehood is susceptible of an infinity of combinations,
but truth has only one mode of being.
Rousseau (1712-1778)

- 688 A liar begins with making falsehood appear like truth,
and ends with making truth itself appear like falsehood.
William Shenstone (1714-1763)
- 689 We are never deceived; we deceive ourselves.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 690 The weak in courage is strong in cunning.
William Blake (1757-1828)
- 691 Fraud and falsehood only dread examination.
Truth invites it.
Thomas Cooper (1759-1839)
- 692 Falsehood is cowardice, - truth is courage.
Hosea Ballou (1771-1852)
- 693 And, after all, what is a lie? 'Tis but
The truth in masquerade.
Byron (1788-1824)
- 694 White lies are but the ushers to black ones.
Frederick Marryat (1792-1848)
- 695 His honour rooted in dishonour stood,
And faith unfaithful kept him falsely true.
Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892)
- 696 The cruelest lies are often told in silence.
Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1895)
- 697 Truth is the safest lie.
Jewish Proverb
- 698 Thy secret is thy prisoner if thou keepest it;
thou art its prisoner if thou divulgest it.
Chinese Proverb

3. INSIGHT

- 699 If the Great Way perishes
there will morality and duty.
When cleverness and knowledge arise
great lies will flourish.
When relatives fall out with one another
there will be filial duty and love.
When states are in confusion
there will be faithful servants.
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)

- 700 A lie never lives to be old.
Sophocles (B.C. 495-406)
- 701 Knowledge without justice ought to be called cunning rather
than wisdom.
Plato (B.C. 427?-347?)
- 702 No wise man ever thought that a traitor should be trusted.
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 703 Treachery, though at first very cautious,
in the end betrays itself.
Livy (B.C. 59-17 A.D.)
- 704 You are in a pitiable condition if you have to conceal what
you wish to tell.
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)
- 705 One crime is concealed by the commission of another.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 706 For whoever contemplates a crime is guilty of the deed.
Juvenal (40-125 A.D.)
- 707 If one is plotting evil,
He always uses pleasant words.
When a hunter sees the game,
He sings a sweet song to lure it.
Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)
- 708 One who deceives will always find those who allow themselves
to be deceived.
Machiavelli (1469-1527)
- 709 No man was ever so much deceived by another as by himself.
Greville (1554-1628)
- 710 Cunning and treachery are the offspring of incapacity.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 711 The fox puts off all with a jest.
L'Estrange (1616-1704)
- 712 All deception in the course of life is indeed nothing else
but a lie reduced to practice, and falsehood passing from
words into things.
Robert South (1634-1716)

- 713 Cunning leads to knavery. - It is but a step from one to the other, and that very slippery. - Only lying makes the difference; add that to cunning, and it is knavery.
La Bruyere (1645-1696)
- 714 Cunning has effect from the credulity of others.
It requires no extraordinary talents to lie and deceive.
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 715 Falsehood is never so successful as when she baits her hook with truth, and no opinions so fastly misled us as those that are not wholly wrong, as no timepieces so effectually deceive the wearer as those that are sometimes right.
Colton (1780-1832)
- 716 Treason is like diamonds;
there is nothing to be made by the small trader.
Douglas Jerrold (1803-1857)
- 717 There is no lie that many men will not believe;
there is no man who does not believe many lies;
and there is no man who believes only lies.
John Sterling (1806-1844)
- 718 Sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle which fits them all.
Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894)
- 719 No one can disgrace us but ourselves.
Josiah Holland (1819-1881)
- 720 The very cunning conceal their cunning;
the indifferently shrew boast of it.
Bovee (1820-1904)
- 721 A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.
Mark Twain (1835-1910)

4. POSITIVE

- 722 Shame greatly hurts or greatly helps mankind.
Homer (c. B.C. 700)
- 723 Shame is an ornament to the young;
a disgrace to the old.
Aristotle (B.C. 384-322)
- 724 Shame may restrain what law does not prohibit.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)

- 725 A goodly apple rotten at the heart;
O, what a goodly outside falsehood hath!
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 726 Any fool can tell the truth, but it requires a man of some
sense to know how to lie well.
Samuel Butler (1612-1680)
- 727 Whatever disgrace we may have deserved, it is almost always
in our power to re-establish our character.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 728 It is double pleasure to deceive the deceiver.
La Fontaine (1621-1695)
- 729 If there were no falsehood in the world, there would be no
doubt; if there were no doubt, there would be no inquiry;
if no inquiry, no wisdom, no knowledge, no genius.
Landor (1775-1864)
- 730 Cunning is the natural and universal defense of the weak
against the violence of the strong.
Macaulay (1800-1859)
- 731 Foxes are so cunning
Because they are not strong.
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 732 Men, like musical instruments, seem made to be played upon.
Bovee (1820-1904)
- 733 The best liar is he who makes the smallest amount of lying
go the longest way.
Samuel Butler (1835-1902)
- 734 A little inaccuracy sometimes saves tons of explanation.
Saki (1870-1916)
- 735 Lying is an indispensable part of making life tolerable.
Bergen Evans (born 1904)

5. NEGATIVE

- 736 The heart of the hypocrite is hid in his breast;
he masketh his words in the semblance of truth,
while the business of his life is only to deceive.
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 737 For he who speaks untruth withers like a tree to the roots.
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)

- 738 Hateful to me as are the gates of hell,
Is he who, hiding one thing in his heart,
Utters another.
Homer (c. B.C. 700)
- 739 If people become accustomed to lying, they will uncon-
sciously commit every possible wrong deed. Before they
can act wickedly they must lie, and once they begin to
lie they will act wickedly with unconcern.
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 740 For one who has been honored, dishonor is worse than death.
Bhagavad Gita (c. B.C. 400)
- 741 Disgrace is immortal, and living even when one thinks
it dead.
Plautus (B.C. 254-184)
- 742 Lying is a most disgraceful vice; it first despises God,
and then fears men.
Plutarch (46-120 A.D.)
- 743 To tell a falsehood is like the cut of a saber;
for though the wound may heal, the scar of it will remain.
Saadi (1184-1291)
- 744 The gain of lying is, not to be trusted by any,
nor to be believed when we speak the truth.
Walter Raleigh (1552-1618)
- 745 Though those who are betrayed do feel the treason
sharply, yet the traitor stands in worse case of woe.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 746 Where trust is greatest, there treason is in its most
horrid shape.
Dryden (1631-1700)
- 747 He who tells a lie is not sensible how great a task he
undertakes; for he must invent twenty more to maintain that
one.
Pope (1688-1744)
- 748 Trickery and treachery are the practices of fools that have
not wits enough to be honest.
Franklin (1706-1790)

- 749 Deceivers are the most dangerous members of society. They trifle with the best parts of our nature, and violate the most sacred obligations.
George Crabbe (1754-1832)
- 750 Not the least misfortune in a prominent falsehood is the fact that tradition is apt to repeat it for truth.
Hosea Ballou (1771-1852)
- 751 The first and worst of all frauds is to cheat oneself.
Bailey (1816-1902)
- 752 The liar's punishment is not in the least that he is not believed, but that he cannot believe anyone else.
G. B. Shaw (1856-1950)

6. ADVICE

- 753 So near is falsehood to truth that a wise man would do well not to trust himself on the narrow edge.
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 754 He who does not prevent a crime when he can, encourages it.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 755 Who is not sure of his memory should not attempt lying.
Montaigne (1533-1592)
- 756 We should do by our cunning as we do by our courage, always have it ready to defend ourselves, never to offend others.
Greville (1554-1628)
- 757 Watchfulness is the only guard against cunning. Be intent on his intentions. Many succeed in making others do their own affairs, and unless you possess the key to their motives you may at any moment be forced to take their chestnuts out of the fire to the damage of your own fingers.
Baltasar Gracian (1601-1658)
- 758 Trust not in him that seems a saint.
Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)
- 759 How can we expect another to keep our secret if we cannot keep it ourselves.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 760 Distrust all those who love you extremely upon a very slight acquaintance and without any visible reason.
Chesterfield (1694-1773)

- 761 I deny the lawfulness of telling a lie to a sick man for
fear of alarming him; you have no business with consequences
you are to tell the truth.
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 762 Do not talk about disgrace from a thing being known,
when disgrace is, that the thing should exist.
William Falconer (1732-1769)
- 763 I have known a vast quantity of nonsense talked about bad
men not looking you in the face. Don't trust that
conventional idea. Dishonesty will stare honesty out of
countenance any day in the week, if there is anything to be
got by it.
Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

7. POTPOURRI

- 764 O fool, fool! the pains which thou takest to hide what thou
art, are far more than would make thee what thou wouldst
seem; and the children of wisdom shall mock at thy cunning
when, in the midst of security, thy disguise is stripped
off, and the finger of derision shall point thee to scorn.
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 765 And oftentimes, to win us to our harm,
The instruments of darkness tell us truths,
Win us with honest trifles, to betray's
In deepest consequence.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 766 We trust our secrets to our friends,
but they escape from us in love.
La Bruyere (1645-1696)
- 767 Is there not some chosen curse,
Some hidden thunder in the stores of heaven,
Red with uncommon wrath, to blast the man
Who owes his greatness to his country's ruin?
Addison (1672-1719)
- 768 It is the just decree of Heaven that a traitor never sees
his danger till his ruin is at hand.
Metastasio (1698-1782)
- 769 Three may keep a secret if two of them are dead.
Franklin (1706-1790)

- 770 Some have learnt many Tricks of sly Evasion,
Instead of Truth they use Equivocation,
And eke it out with mental Reservation,
Which is to good Men an Abomination.
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 771 Round numbers are always false.
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 772 A great lie is like a great fish on dry land; it may fret
and fling, and make a frightful bother, but it cannot hurt
you. You have only to keep still and it will die of itself.
George Crabbe (1754-1832)
- 773 O, what a tangled web we weave
when first we practise to deceive!
Walter Scott (1771-1832)
- 774 Oh, colder than the wind that freezes
Founts, that but now in sunshine play'd,
Is that congealing pang which seizes
The trusting bosom, when betray'd.
Thomas Moore (1779-1852)
- 775 Mary, I believed thee true,
And I was blest in thus believing;
But now I mourn that ever I knew
A girl so fair and so deceiving.
Thomas Moore (1779-1852)
- 776 Falsehoods not only disagree with truths,
but usually quarrel among themselves.
Daniel Webster (1782-1852)
- 777 You can fool some of the people all of the time,
and all of the people some of the time,
but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time.
Lincoln? (1809-1865)
- 778 A traitor is good fruit to hang from the boughs of the
tree of liberty.
Beecher (1813-1878)
- 779 Spies are of no use nowadays. Their profession is over.
The newspapers do their work instead.
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

780 We (Communist Party) must be ready to employ trickery, deceit, law-breaking, withholding and concealing truth. We can and must write in the language which sows among the masses hate, revulsion, scorn, and the like, toward those who disagree with us.

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Nikolai Lenin (1870-1924)