

What does the phrase white lie mean?

M-W defines “white lie” as “a lie about a small or unimportant matter that someone tells to avoid hurting another person.” That's similar to the American Heritage definition: “An often trivial, diplomatic or well-intentioned untruth.”

White lies and black lies: What they have in common and how they differ. Black lies, or telling a lie to gain a personal benefit, are universally condemned. In contrast, white lies, or telling a lie to please another person, are seen as an innocent part of everyday interactions.

Read the story and answer did the narrator tell a white lie

It all began after work one day when some friends and I were talking about theme parks. A girl called Rosie said she loved big, scary rides, and for some reason, I said that I loved them too. What I should have said is that I'm terrified of them.

Two days later, Rosie told me that she had booked tickets for a group of us to go to a nearby theme park the following weekend. She insisted that I go and promised that I would love the roller-coaster because it was the highest and fastest in Europe!

When we arrived at the theme park, Rosie and her friends headed straight for the roller-coaster. As we stood in the queue, I became more and more nervous. By the time we reached the front of queue, I was panicking. I refused to go on the ride. I was so embarrassed, I went home on my own.

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Answer for these questions

- 1 Is the story written in the first or third person?
- 2 On how many different days do the events take place? Does each day have its own paragraph?
- 3 What time expressions does the writer use to move the story forwards?
- 4 Find three adjectives in paragraphs 3 and 4 which describe feelings or reactions.

Make up sentences using these words

Phrasal verbs

- 1 to tell people about a secret _____
- 2 to notice and give special attention to something

- 3 to deceive someone _____
- 4 to state that something false is true _____
- 5 to create something _____
- 6 to hide somewhere _____
- 7 to discover something _____
- 8 to take advantage of someone's feelings _____