



Chapter Focus

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Learning an important lesson

READING SKILL:

Using context

BUILDING VOCABULARY:

Phrasal verbs

LANGUAGE FOCUS:

Past perfect

“Mistakes are a fact of life. It is the response to error that counts.”

– Nikki Giovanni
American writer
(1943 –)

Chapter



1

A Long Walk Home

Before You Read

1. In the story on pages 4–5, a young man tells a lie. Do you think it's ever OK to tell a lie? If so, when?
2. Read the title of the story and predict what the story is about.
3. Read the first sentence in the first, second, and third paragraphs. Now what do you think the story is about? Share your ideas with a partner.

A LONG WALK HOME

by Jason Bocarro

from *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul*

Note: Explanations for words in blue type can be found in the Culture and Language Notes on pages 168–189

1 I grew up in the south of **Spain** in a little community called Estepona. I was 16 when one morning, my father told me I could drive him into a remote village called Mijas, about 18 miles away, on the condition that I take¹ the car in to be serviced² at a nearby garage. Having just
5 learned to drive and hardly ever having the opportunity to use the car, I readily accepted. I drove Dad into Mijas and promised to pick him up at 4 p.m., then drove to a nearby garage and dropped off the car. Because I had a few hours to spare,³ I decided to catch a couple of movies at a theater near the garage. However, I became so immersed⁴
10 in the films that I completely lost track of time.⁵ When the last movie had finished, I looked down at my watch. It was six o'clock. I was two hours late!

I knew Dad would be angry if he found out I'd been watching movies. He'd never let me drive again. I decided to tell him that the
15 car needed some repairs and that they had taken longer than had been expected. I drove up to the place where we had planned to meet and saw Dad waiting patiently on the corner. I apologized for being late and told him that I'd come as quickly as I could, but the car had needed some major repairs. I'll never forget the look he gave me.⁶

20 "I'm disappointed that you feel you have to lie to me, Jason."

"What do you mean? I'm telling the truth."

Dad looked at me again. "When you did not show up, I called the garage to ask if there were any problems, and they told me that you had not yet picked up the car. So you see, I know there were no
25 problems with the car." A rush of guilt ran through me as I feebly confessed to⁷ my trip to the movie theater and the real reason for my tardiness. Dad listened intently as a sadness passed through him.

¹ **on the condition that I take** if I took

² **to be serviced** to be checked for problems and repaired if necessary

³ **had a few hours to spare** had a few free hours

⁴ **immersed** interested in, fascinated by

⁵ **lost track of time** didn't pay attention to the time

⁶ **the look he gave me** the way he looked at me

⁷ **confessed to** told the truth about

30 “I’m angry, not with you but with myself. You see, I realize that I have failed as a father if after all these years you feel that you have to lie to me. I have failed because I have brought up a son who cannot even tell the truth to his own father. I’m going to walk home now and contemplate⁸ where I have gone wrong all these years.”

“But Dad, it’s 18 miles to home. It’s dark. You can’t walk home.”

35 My protests, my apologies and the rest of my utterances were useless. I had let my father down,⁹ and I was about to learn one of the most painful lessons of my life. Dad began walking along the dusty roads. I quickly jumped in the car and followed behind, hoping he would relent.¹⁰ I pleaded all the way, telling him how sorry I was, but he simply ignored me, continuing on silently, thoughtfully and
40 painfully. For 18 miles I drove behind him, averaging about five miles per hour.

Seeing my father in so much physical and emotional pain was the most distressing and painful experience that I have ever faced. However, it was also the most successful lesson. I have never lied to
45 him since.

About the Source

Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul is just one of many best-selling books in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, edited by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen. Chicken soup is traditionally thought to be an extremely healthy food that can cure sickness and give comfort. The title of these books suggests that reading the stories within them can have a healthy affect on the soul or spirit. The stories in the books are all taken from real life.

⁸ **contemplate** think seriously about

⁹ **let my father down** disappointed my father

¹⁰ **relent** do what he said he wouldn't do (i.e., ride home in the car)

After You Read

Understanding the Text

A. Events in the Story

1. **Order the events.** Number the events in the story “A Long Walk Home” from the first (1) to the last (10).

- _____ He apologized to his father for being late.
- _____ He went to a movie theater.
- _____ He dropped the car off at a garage to be serviced.
- _____ He realized his father knew he was lying.
- _____ He realized it was six o'clock and his father was waiting for him.
- _____ He followed his father the whole 18 miles home.
- _____ He picked up the car at the garage and then went to pick up his father.
- _____ He told his father a lie.
- 1 Jason drove his father into town and dropped him off.
- _____ He tried to persuade his father to get into the car.

2. In your own words, retell the story “A Long Walk Home.”

B. Consider the issues. Work with a partner to answer the questions below.

1. What do you think Jason said when he apologized to his father for being late?
2. What is your opinion of the way Jason's father responded to his son's lie?
3. Jason said that he learned something from this experience. Besides learning not to lie, what do you think he learned?

Reading Skill

Using context

When you read, you can use context (the surrounding words and ideas) to guess the meaning of many unfamiliar words.

- A.** In the sentences below, use context to guess the meaning of the italicized words. Circle the letter of your answer.
- I was 16 when one morning, my father told me I could drive him into a remote village called Mijas, about 18 miles away, on the condition that I take the car in to be serviced at a nearby *garage*.
a. building b. restaurant **c. repair shop**
 - Having just learned to drive, and hardly ever having the opportunity to use the car, I *readily* accepted.
a. quickly b. quietly c. sadly
 - Because I had a few hours to spare, I decided to *catch* a couple of movies at a theater near the garage.
a. find b. watch c. ignore
 - My protests, my apologies, and the rest of my *utterances* were useless.
a. friends b. clothes c. words
- B.** See how much information you can get from context. Use the words and ideas in the rest of the sentence to guess the missing word(s). There are many possible answers.
- When I _____ *got* _____ to the garage to pick up the car, they said it wasn't ready yet.
 - I went to a nearby _____ to watch a couple of movies.
 - When I _____ at my watch, I saw that it was already six o'clock.
 - I _____ the movie theater as soon as the movie had finished.

Building Vocabulary

Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs have two or three parts: a verb and one or two other words like *down*, *up*, *off*, or *out*. Many phrasal verbs are difficult to understand because the two or three words together have a special meaning.

*I **grew up** in the south of Spain.*

*I **let my father down** when I lied to him.*

A. Underline the phrasal verbs in the sentences below. Then use context to guess the meaning of each verb. Share your answers with a partner.

1. When Jason's father found out that his son had been watching movies, he was very upset.
2. Jason didn't pick the car up until after six o'clock.
3. Jason didn't show up at four o'clock to get his father because he was at the movie theater watching a film.
4. After Jason dropped the car off at the garage, he went to the movies.
5. Parents are responsible for bringing up their children.

B. Use a phrasal verb from the reading to answer each question below.

1. What did Jason do before he went to the theater?

2. Why did Jason's father call the garage?

3. Why did Jason's father feel like a failure?

Language Focus

Past perfect

Form: *had* + past participle

Meaning: The past perfect is used to show that one thing happened before another in the past.

*I drove up to the place where we **had planned** to meet.*

*Dad found out that I **had gone** to the movies.*

A. Complete the sentences below with the past perfect form of the verb in parentheses.

1. I knew Dad would be angry if he found out that

I _____ (go) to the movies.

2. I told my father that it _____ (take) a lot

longer to fix the car than we _____ (expect).

3. My father knew I was lying because he _____

already _____ (call) the garage to find out if there was a problem.

4. My father felt that he _____ (fail) as a father.

5. I lied to my father when he asked me where

I _____ (be).

B. Simple past or past perfect? Underline the correct verb form in parentheses. Compare your answers with a partner's.

1. When I (arrived/had arrived) at our meeting place, I saw my father waiting patiently.

2. Jason picked up the car from the garage after he (saw/had seen) a couple of movies.

3. Dad walked down the dusty road and I (followed/had followed) behind him.

4. Dad knew I was lying because he (called/had called) the garage two hours before.

5. My father (believed/had believed) that he had failed as a father.

Discussion & Writing

A. Jason's father chose an interesting way to teach his son a lesson. What could parents do in the following situations to teach their children a lesson? Work in a group to come up with a suggestion for each situation.

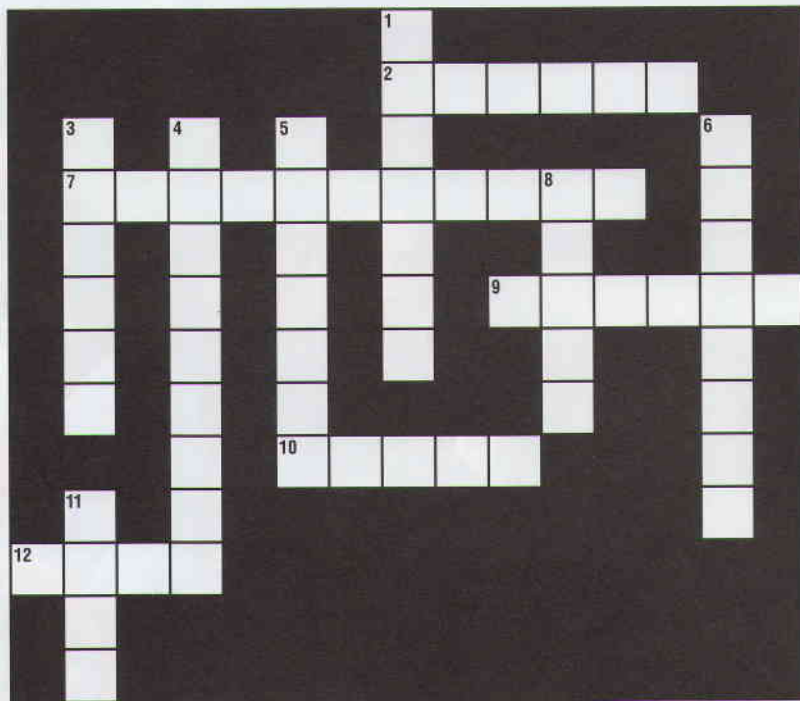
1. "When I was about six years old, my mother left me at a friend's house for a few hours. This friend had a large supply of pens and pencils, and I took a few of them without telling her. Later my mother saw the pens and asked me where I got them. When I told her, she _____."
2. "In my family, we weren't allowed to use any bad words. Even telling someone to 'shut up' was against the rules. One time when I told my sister to shut up, my mother _____."
3. "I don't remember this, but my relatives tell me that when I was little, I took some chalk and drew pictures on the outside of the house. My grandfather was the first to see my pictures and he _____."

B. Follow the steps below to share stories with a partner.

1. Think about a time when you misbehaved¹¹ as a child. Then answer the questions below on another piece of paper.
 - How old were you?
 - Where were you?
 - How did you misbehave?
 - Why do you think you misbehaved?
2. Get together in a group. Take turns reading your answers aloud. For each situation, work together to decide how you think the parents should respond to the child's misbehavior.

¹¹ **misbehaved** behaved badly

Crossword Puzzle



Use words from the reading to complete the crossword puzzle.

Across:

- 2 A synonym for the verb *fix* is ____.
- 7 Another word for *a chance to do something* is _____. (line 5)
- 9 The opposite of *succeeded* is _____.
- 10 The past tense of *drive* is _____.
- 12 A _____ is equal to 1.6 kilometers.

Down:

- 1 The past tense of *bring up* is _____ up.
- 3 The opposite of *remember* is _____.
- 4 When you _____ to someone, you say you are sorry. (line 17)
- 5 The past tense of *drop off* is _____ off.
- 6 Another word for *without noise* is _____. (line 39)
- 8 It is easy to lose _____ of time when you are having fun. (line 10)
- 11 The opposite of *drop off* is _____ up.