

# YouGov Results - White Lies

Fieldwork: 3rd - 4th September 2020

Sample Size: 1633 GB Adults



**Weighted Sample**  
Unweighted Sample

Total	Gender		Age				Social		Region				
	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC 1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland
1633	794	839	178	681	394	380	931	702	196	549	354	394	140
1633	738	895	107	698	434	394	969	664	122	581	368	420	142
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Thinking about the following "white lies" that are commonly told to children, which of the following, if any, were you told as a child?

**Carrots help you see in the dark**

I was told this as a child	<b>88</b>	86	91	78	89	92	88	89	88	74	89	92	90	92
I was not told this as a child	<b>8</b>	9	7	6	8	6	9	8	8	14	8	5	6	7
Don't know	<b>4</b>	5	3	16	3	2	3	4	4	12	3	3	4	2

**Bread crusts make your chest hair grow**

I was told this as a child	<b>37</b>	40	33	21	39	41	36	36	38	25	35	41	41	39
I was not told this as a child	<b>59</b>	53	64	65	58	57	59	60	57	64	62	54	56	58
Don't know	<b>5</b>	7	2	15	3	3	5	4	5	11	4	4	3	3

**Screens will turn your eyes square if you watch them too much**

I was told this as a child	<b>73</b>	71	75	64	80	77	61	71	76	70	69	76	76	78
I was not told this as a child	<b>23</b>	23	23	21	17	22	36	25	20	21	27	22	21	20
Don't know	<b>4</b>	6	2	15	2	1	3	3	4	9	3	2	4	2

**The ice cream van tune means the van has run out of ice cream**

I was told this as a child	<b>9</b>	8	10	15	10	7	7	9	10	7	8	10	9	12
I was not told this as a child	<b>86</b>	85	88	71	86	91	89	88	84	81	88	85	88	85
Don't know	<b>4</b>	7	2	15	4	2	3	4	5	12	3	4	3	3

**Knuckle-cracking leads to arthritis**

I was told this as a child	<b>67</b>	65	69	69	80	68	43	68	66	62	65	70	68	71
I was not told this as a child	<b>29</b>	29	28	16	17	30	53	28	29	25	31	26	29	26
Don't know	<b>4</b>	6	3	15	3	2	4	3	6	13	3	3	3	3

**Santa Claus knows if you've been naughty or nice**

I was told this as a child	<b>86</b>	85	88	79	91	86	82	86	86	72	86	91	88	90
I was not told this as a child	<b>10</b>	10	10	6	7	12	16	10	10	19	11	6	9	7
Don't know	<b>4</b>	6	2	15	2	3	3	4	4	9	3	3	3	2

**Your nose will grow if you lie**

I was told this as a child	<b>68</b>	64	72	48	75	71	62	65	72	61	65	70	72	72
I was not told this as a child	<b>28</b>	30	26	37	22	27	35	31	24	29	31	26	24	26
Don't know	<b>4</b>	6	2	15	3	2	3	5	4	10	4	3	3	2

**Reading in the dark will damage your eyes**

I was told this as a child	<b>65</b>	60	69	43	60	75	71	66	62	61	64	65	67	63
I was not told this as a child	<b>30</b>	34	27	41	35	21	26	30	31	25	31	31	30	31
Don't know	<b>5</b>	6	4	16	5	3	3	4	7	13	4	4	3	6

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Weighted Sample  
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	Gender		Age				Social		Region					
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC 1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland
Weighted Sample	1633	794	839	178	681	394	380	931	702	196	549	354	394	140
Unweighted Sample	1633	738	895	107	698	434	394	969	664	122	581	368	420	142
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Thinking about the following "white lies" that are commonly told to children, which of the following, if any, have you told your children?

[Asked only to those who indicated that they are a parent; n=908]

**Carrots help you see in the dark**

I have told my children this	50	44	55	47	46	52	53	46	54	40	52	54	50	47
I have not told my children this	47	53	42	53	48	46	45	51	41	54	46	44	47	46
Don't know	3	3	4	0	6	2	2	2	4	5	2	2	4	7

**Bread crusts make your chest hair grow**

I have told my children this	12	11	12	23	9	10	16	9	15	10	12	11	13	12
I have not told my children this	86	86	86	77	87	90	81	89	83	85	86	86	86	84
Don't know	3	3	2	0	4	0	3	2	3	5	2	3	2	4

**Screens will turn your eyes square if you watch them too much**

I have told my children this	36	34	37	43	33	35	39	29	43	37	32	38	37	37
I have not told my children this	61	63	60	57	62	63	57	68	53	53	66	60	59	61
Don't know	3	4	3	0	5	2	4	3	4	10	2	3	4	3

**The ice cream van tune means the van has run out of ice cream**

I have told my children this	12	12	11	44	18	10	5	14	10	14	13	12	11	7
I have not told my children this	86	84	87	56	77	89	91	84	87	77	86	85	88	90
Don't know	3	4	2	0	4	0	3	2	3	9	1	3	1	3

**Knuckle-cracking leads to arthritis**

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I have not told my children this	72	71	73	57	71	67	78	76	67	72	74	69	77	60
Don't know	3	4	2	0	3	2	3	3	3	8	2	3	2	3

**Santa Claus knows if you've been naughty or nice**

I have told my children this	74	68	80	100	76	76	70	71	78	69	73	79	74	73
I have not told my children this	23	28	19	0	19	23	27	26	19	23	26	19	23	20
Don't know	3	5	2	0	4	1	3	3	3	8	1	2	3	8

**Your nose will grow if you lie**

I have told my children this	33	29	36	23	28	33	37	27	39	35	31	31	34	38
I have not told my children this	64	68	61	77	69	64	59	70	58	60	67	65	63	60
Don't know	3	4	3	0	4	2	4	3	4	5	3	4	3	3

**Reading in the dark will damage your eyes**

I have told my children this	33	28	36	44	24	36	38	29	37	47	32	33	29	30
I have not told my children this	63	67	60	56	71	60	59	67	59	48	65	63	67	65
Don't know	4	5	4	0	5	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	6