

- C** So what are the tell-tale signs that give away a lie? In 1994, the psychologist Richard Wiseman devised a large-scale experiment on a TV programme called *Tomorrow's World*. As part of the experiment, viewers watched two interviews in which Wiseman asked a presenter in front of the cameras to describe his favourite film. In one interview, the presenter picked *Some Like It Hot* and he told the truth; in the other interview, he picked *Gone with the Wind* and lied. The viewers were then invited to make a choice – to telephone in to say which film he was lying about. More than 30,000 calls were received, but viewers were unable to tell the difference and the vote was a 50/50 split. In similar experiments, the results have been remarkably consistent – when it comes to lie detection, people might as well simply toss a coin. It doesn't matter if you are male or female, young or old; very few people are able to detect deception.

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