

VOCABULARY

Work with your partner. Complete the sentences with words or phrases from the box. WRITE the correct letter in the space. Use a dictionary if necessary.

A) a cock-and-bull story B) a long story an old wives' tale C) a sob story
D) tattle-tale E) the story of my life F) to cut a long story short

a They say that eating carrots helps you see in the dark, but personally I think it's just _____.

b We lost our baggage at the airport and had to fill in various forms and keep calling the airline. But anyway, _____, we got it back in the end.

c "Mommy, Ella hit the cat." "Don't be a _____ Mia"

d I'm afraid you can't believe everything Karen says. She's always got _____ about how badly people have treated her.

e When he arrived late he told me _____ about being trapped in an elevator and then being rescued by a news reporter and being interviewed on TV.

f I didn't get the job – they told me I didn't have enough experience. But that's _____

g "So how did you persuade your father to lend you the car?" "Well, it's _____

Work with your partner. discuss which expressions (a–g) in exercise 1 relate to ...

1 a myth or superstition. _____ 5 a story that you don't want to tell in detail. _____

2 a silly story that is hard to believe. _____ 6 a detailed or complicated story. _____

3 a person who tells a story to get someone else into trouble. _____ 7 something unfortunate that often happens to someone. _____

4 a sad story designed to elicit sympathy. _____

Read the situations and complete the sentences with words and phrases from the box.

a) con b) fall for c) fishy d) get taken for a ride e) naive
f) plausible g) skeptical h) unfaithful

a I let the used-car salesman _____ me into believing that the sound that the engine makes was nothing to worry about. I shouldn't have been so gullible.

b You can't take Laura in – she's too streetwise to _____ any cock-and-bull story.

c He made out he was a police officer and just needed to check my passport. How was I to know he was a con man? His story seemed completely _____ to me

**b) con b) fall for c) fishy d) get taken for a ride e) naive
f) plausible g) skeptical h) unfaithful**

d You have to be really on the ball and astute if you don't want to _____. There are some really unscrupulous people out there.

e Did you really swallow that sob story about his daughter? I can't believe you were so _____.

f He led me to believe he wanted to marry me. Little did I realize he already had a wife and children back home. It's made me more _____ about men, I'm afraid.

g "I thought that investment deal sounded _____. " "Yes, I should have realized. The trouble with me is, I'm too trusting – I take everyone at their word."

h Unbeknown to Tim, his girlfriend was cheating on him. He can't seem to find a woman who isn't _____ to him.

Choose the correct alternatives.

a Are you a(n) **gullible / plausible / unfaithful** person or are you more skeptical?

b Have you ever been **tricked / made out / swallowed into** handing over money to a stranger?

c Can you think of a **trusting / plausible / naïve** excuse for forgetting an appointment?

d Have you ever **made out / taken in / conned** you were sick when you didn't want to go somewhere?

e Would you ever **fall for / make out / cheat on** a boyfriend or girlfriend behind their back?