

Fake Lie Detector

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IMPORTANT:

Before you bring someone on stage for the lie detector, make sure they understand the following:

1. **You're going to be goofing on them.** Not everyone can laugh at themselves. The last thing you want to do is embarrass someone who can't take it, one stage, in front of a group of people.
2. **There might be potentially sensitive questions.** If you're going to ask a question about dating, make sure they didn't just go through a bad breakup.
3. **They are, "The Straight Man".** Nothing kills this bit faster than a student/volunteer who tries to be funny with their answers. The joke is that the lie detector is controlling the narrative. For example, if you ask them if they've ever peed in the pool and their answer is, "Yes, just this morning." It's a funny answer, but ruins the funnier situation where they say no and you buzz them.
4. **Be honest... most of the time.** The whole goal of this bit is to use the lie detector to jokingly paint an embarrassing picture of your subject. It quickly becomes clear to the audience that you're controlling the lie detector. So, when you ask a question, your subject should actually answer honestly. Their goal is to not try to cheat the lie detector. For example, if you ask a 16 year old how old he is and he answers, "45", you'll have to buzz him and it might get a little laugh, but you are no longer in control. The only time they should lie is if you ask an embarrassing question and the truth is embarrassing. For example, if you ask a student if he likes anyone in the room, even if he does, his answer should be no. Otherwise if he names a girl's name, that part of the bit is over.
5. **One, Two, Punch.** Let them know that, if you ever ask a question 3 times, on the 3rd time, just give the answer that you're clearly looking for. For example, "Do you wear the same underwear multiple days in a row?" — They answer, "No" — You buzz them and ask again — "Do you wear the same underwear multiple days in a row?" — They answer, "No" again — You buzz them again and ask one more time — "Do you wear the same underwear multiple days in a row?" — They give in and says, "Yes". — You ding (meaning you hit the truth button) them.

Opening Script:

It's always a good idea to start out by explaining to your subject and the audience about what is about to happen. After you hook your subject up to a fake arm band or head strap with a bunch of wires, turn on the lie detector and begin explaining:

You: Today, we're going to use something called a polygraph on Mark. Mark has been hooked up to a series of wires that will measure things like his heart rate, sweat levels, vocal pitches, and a bunch of other science things.

Now Mark, when you tell a lie, this machine is going to detect that and a red buzzer is going to go off. If you tell the truth, a green light will ding. Does that make sense?

Mark: Yes.

Lie Detector: BUZZ.

You: Oh wow. Okay. Yikes. How do I explain this.... Mark, do you know the difference between a truth and a lie is?

Mark: Yes.

Lie Detector: BUZZ.

You: Wow... Um... Do you know what a lie is?

Mark: Yes.

Lie Detector: DING.

You: Good! Do you know what a truth is?

Mark: Yes.

Lie Detector: DING.

You: Great!! So then you know the difference between a truth and a lie.

Mark: Yes.

Lie Detector: BUZZ.

You: (Look at Mark like he's a total moron and take a deep breath) Okay then... let's just keep going. (Pull out a clipboard that has questions written down for reference). Mark, (ask first question).

At this point, your subject and audience understand what is going on and how the bit works. Now you can go into asking whatever questions that you want. Remember, the goal is to use the lie detector to lead the subject into admitting to something embarrassing. The safest thing to do is to ask yes/no questions. That way you reduce the chance of the subject from diverging from your line of questioning.

The best way to prepare this is to have your embarrassing situation first, then write out the yes/no questions that would lead to them confessing to it. Below are a list of scenarios with the questions that lead to the final confession. Next to each question is the desired answer. If they give the answer that you want, ding them, if the don't buzz them and ask again until they change their answer. (Note: Obviously don't tell them the ultimate question that you're leading to).

Did you pee in the baptismal

1. Do you enjoy water? (Yes)
2. Would it be a fair statement to say that you enjoy being in bodies of water. A pool, bath tub, the beach, as a few examples. (Yes)
3. Would you agree that being in a body of water can be very relaxing. (Yes)
4. Do you avoid drinking lots of fluids? (No)
5. So then it would be reasonable to say that you do, in fact, drink lots of fluids. (Yes)
6. Urination is a normal function of the human body. Do you agree? (Yes.)
7. In your personal experience, is urinating something you'd consider relaxing as opposed to horribly stressful (Yes).
8. You were baptized recently. Is that correct? (Yes).
9. Tell me, you admitted to drinking lots of fluids, did you drink lots of fluids before your baptism (Yes).
10. So, you've admitted that you enjoy being in bodies of water because it's relaxing in the same way that urinating is relaxing. You drank lots of fluids before your baptism. Did you pee in the baptismal. (**One. Two. Punch** - i.e. No, No, Yes)

Who's your favorite child?

(For parents/volunteers with multiple kids in your ministry)

1. Do you understand the basics of how a parachute works? (Yes)
2. Would it be a fair statement that a parachute that is designed for one person cannot be used by two or more people at the same time (Yes)
3. Have you ever been skydiving (Yes/No - doesn't matter).
4. Would you ever consider going skydiving [again] (Yes/No - doesn't matter).
5. Switching topics! Is it true that you have 2 kids? (Yes)
6. It is true that their names are James and Karen? (Yes)
7. Would current records indicate that James is a Junior at Mission Viejo High School? (Yes)
8. Would current records also indicate that Karen is a Sophomore at that same school? (Yes)
9. Do you enjoy spending time with your kids? (Yes)
10. Would you agree that the relationship between a parent and a child is very special (Yes)
11. If you and your two kids were in a single engine plane that was crashing from 35,000 feet, and you only had one, single-person parachute, would you give it to James instead of Karen? (They mostly won't answer. If they do answer, give them a ding and look surprised like they're a horrible person).
12. (if they refuse to answer with a yes or no) Let's back up and ask an easier question. In that scenario that I just explained about the plane crashing and you have the opportunity to save one of your two kids who are both in this room right now, would it be reasonable to say that you do at least know the answer. (**One. Two. Punch** - i.e. No, No, Yes)
13. (At this point, it's best to leave it a mystery and say that they're going to have an awkward conversation at family dinner tonight).

What's your perfect date?

(For a student who is single and has a lot of confidence)

1. Is your name Tiffany? (Yes)
2. Tiffany, I'm going to ask you a series of random, unrelated questions. Do you have a deep, dark hatred for Pokemon? (No)
3. Are you able to name every country in the world? (no).

4. Follow up question, would you say that it's an amazing thing to not be able to name every country in the world? (No)
5. So then you'd agree that learning something like every country, or really anything, is a positive thing (Yes).
6. Do you find a collection of something, really anything, more appealing than absolutely nothing? (Yes).
7. You're doing great. Would it be accurate to say that there are about X number of people in this room? (Yes)
8. Of those people, would I be correct in guessing that there are about X number of boys. (Yes)
9. Of those boys, are there any that you have a massive crush on? (**One. Two. Punch** - i.e. No, No, Yes)
10. Good! So there is someone here in this room that you have a crush on. Is he single? (No - They'll probably say that they don't have a crush on anyone. Just keep asking if he's single until they give answer. When it's reveal that he's not single, look at the subject with shock).
11. Oh no! You can't pursue a guy that's taken! Let's do this, for all of the other guys out there who might want to date Tiffany, we're going to figure out her idea of the perfect date. Are you okay with this, Tiffany? (Yes)
12. Would you prefer a candle lit dinner at a fancy restaurant over IHOP? (No)
13. During a date, would it be fair to say that you like it when the guy does the majority of the talking? (Yes).
14. So, based on what we've learned, you like to learn, you enjoy collections, you don't hate Pokemon, you prefer IHOP, and you like when a guy does most of the talking. Would it be correct to say that your idea of a perfect date is silently eating pancakes at IHOP while your date shows you his Pokemon collection? (Yes).