

## **When drugs lead to dishonesty: Top 10 ways teens trick their parents**

Believe it or not, teens are pretty good at tricking their parents. How do they do this? We asked real teens to share their secrets. If anyone knows the tricks of the trade of being a teen, it would be teens themselves. Read on, parents, there's a lot to learn.

1. **When the Cat is Away:** A teen insists on going to a friend's house for the night when the parents are going out for the evening. When the parents are gone, the teen then returns to the unsupervised house with a group of friends. (This happens most often on holidays, anniversaries and other special occasions.)

2. **The Cameo Appearance:** When attending a school dance, the teen is allowed to leave the dance at any point in the evening. Many couples take pictures at the dance to prove that they attended, and then go to an empty house or secluded area to party. (Setting an early curfew may, therefore, not prevent problem behavior.)

3. **Wide Open Spaces:** Community festivals are not highly patrolled activities, and teens can leave the premises at any time to use substances in nearby woods, parking lots, or behind nearby buildings. They can also be taken to parties by older students who can drive. (It might sound strange for older students to take an interest in younger teens, but it does happen frequently.)

4. **After-School Freedom:** After school when many parents are still at work, teens can congregate at the empty house and do as they please. (Problem behavior is not limited to the weekends only!)

5. **The Deserted Forest:** When walking to a nearby friend's house, teens can meet in deserted secluded areas (such as woods) and use substances or engage in sexual behavior. (This can take place in broad daylight, especially when the teen has no dependable transportation.)

6. **School Functions Gone Wrong:** At school functions (such as school games or meets) or just when staying after school, teens can easily sneak away to use substances in unsupervised, secluded areas.

7. **Sleep-Over Sneak Outs:** Although the parents may be home at a sleep-over, teens can sneak out of the house late at night and either walk somewhere or be picked up in a car down the street.

8. **Turning Water into Wine:** An adolescent can steal alcohol from his parent's liquor supply and then, if necessary, make up the difference in the bottle's volume by adding water.

9. Not Your Usual Math Homework: Although many parents are pleased when their teen goes to a friend's house to do homework, this might not actually be what the teen does. (This is one of the most frequently used lies used by teens to get out of the confines of supervised homes.)

10. A Change of Plans: Teens can say that they are going to a house to spend the night and then "change plans" at the last minute, allowing the parents no time to check up on them.

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