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dishonest, *adj.*

Pronunciation: /dɪs'ɒnɪst/

Frequency (in current use):

Etymology: < Old French *deshoneste* (13th cent. in Hatzfeld & Darmesteter), modern French *déshonnête*; = Provençal *deshonest* , Spanish *deshonesto* , Italian *disonesto* , a Romanic formation for Latin *dehonestus* , < *honestus* honourable, HONEST *adj.* and *adv.*: see DE- *prefix* 1f, DIS- *prefix* 1d.

Cross Reference

honest, *adj.* and *adv.*
Of a thing, condition, action, etc.

†**1.** Entailing dishonour or disgrace; dishonourable, discreditable, misbecoming, shameful, i

*c*1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's Tale* 820 Ye koude nat doon so dishoneste a thyng, That thilke wombe, in which you
1483 CAXTON tr. *Caton* A vij The galowes and..dyshonest dethe.
1484 CAXTON tr. G. de la Tour-Landry *Bk. Knight of Tower* (1971) xlviii. 70 The pryde..of men..that counterf
1586 T. BOWES tr. P. de la Primaudaye *French Acad.* I. 13 If we account it a shamefull thing to be ignorant of those things..the not knowing of our selues is much more dishonest.
1702 N. ROWE *Tamerlane* III. i. 1115 Thou didst an Act dishonest to thy Race.
1713 POPE *Windsor-Forest* 14 Inglorious Triumphs, and dishonest Scars.
1760 J. HOME *Siege of Aquileia* 11 Some fierce barbarian now insults the dead; Adding dishonest wounds.

†**2.** Unchaste, lewd, filthy. *Obs.*

*c*1450 *Jacob's Well* (1900) 159 Þe leccherous louyth to be in dyshonest cumpanye.
*a*1513 R. FABYAN *New Cronycles Eng. & Fraunce* (1516) I. cci. f. cxxii This duke with Gunnore his wyfe lyued longe whyle a dishonest lyfe and contrary to the Lawys of the Churche.
1600 SHAKESPEARE *Henry V* I. ii. 49 Holding in disdaine the Germaine women, For some dishonest manners of their liuee.
1630 J. WADSWORTH *Eng. Spanish Pilgrime* (new ed.) vii. 73 Accused him for being dishonest with his owne Neece.
1734 I. WATTS *Reliquiæ Juveniles* (1789) Pref. 7 Their own dishonest and impure ideas.

†**3.** Unseemly to the sight; ugly, hideous. *Obs.*
(Connected with sense 1.)

[1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. N. de Nicolay *Nauigations Turkie* III. xx. 108 To cover the dishonest partes of the body.]
1653 J. BULWER *Anthropometamorphosis* (rev. ed.) vii. 129 The Face..appeares very filthy and dishonest.
1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Æneis* VI, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 382 Dishonest [L. *inhonesto*] with lop'd Arms, the Youth appears.
1725 POPE tr. Homer *Odyssey* III. x. 462 Enormous beasts dishonest to the eye.

4. Of actions, etc.: Discreditable as being at variance with straightforward or honourable dealing, underhand; now, fraudulent, thievish, knavish.

[1552 R. HULOET *Abcedarium Anglico Latinum* Dishonest matter, or any thynge cloked with fayre wordes, *subturpis*.]
1611 *Bible* (King James) Ezek. xxii. 27 To get dishonest gaine.
1647 A. COWLEY *Counsel* in *Mistress* vi The act I must confess was wise, As a dishonest act could be.
1736 BP. J. BUTLER *Analogy of Relig.* I. iv. 75 Dishonest Artifices..are got into Business of all Kinds.
1840 MACAULAY *Ranke's Hist.* in *Ess.* (1851) II. 127 A most dishonest and inaccurate French version.

5. Of persons: Wanting in honesty, probity, or integrity; disposed to cheat or defraud; thievish.

1752 J. JORTIN *Remarks Eccl. Hist.* II. 48 Imposed upon themselves by dishonest brethren.
1793 T. HOLCROFT tr. J. C. Lavater *Ess. Physiognomy* (abridged ed.) xxxvi. 185 No man is so good as not..to be liable to become dishonest.
1859 C. KINGSLEY *Good News of God* (1878) xxi. 171 You may be false and dishonest, saith the Lord, but I am honest and true.

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