

# Examples of Lies to Track – Narcissistic Abuse Recovery Homework

## Gaslighting & Denials

### ***Common Lies:***

- I never said that.
- You're imagining things.
- That never happened.
- You're too sensitive.
- Well, when you... (deflecting blame to avoid accountability)
- You manipulated me into doing that.

### ***Underlying message:***

- I'm the victim here — you are the aggressor. Your memory, perception, and feelings can't be trusted.

### ***Tactics often used:***

- Denial of facts or words previously spoken.
- Rewriting history ('that never happened').
- Pretending to forget ('toxic amnesia').
- DARVO (Deny, Attack, Reverse Victim and Offender).
- Deflection: focusing on the survivor's behavior instead.

### ***Impact:***

- Creates chronic self-doubt and confusion.
- Makes the survivor feel 'crazy' or unreliable.
- Erodes confidence in memory and judgment.

- Silences the survivor from confronting lies again.

## **About Ex-Partners**

### ***Common Lies:***

- My ex was crazy.
- My ex was abusive — emotionally, physically, financially, sexually.
- They ruined my life.
- I was the perfect partner; they betrayed me.
- My ex manipulated me, and I didn't realize it until later.

### ***Underlying message:***

- All of my past partners victimized me — I've never been the problem.

### ***Tactics often used:***

- Smear campaigns against exes to elicit sympathy.
- Exaggerating or fabricating abuse.
- Contradictory stories depending on the audience.
- Lying to their own therapist, doctors, or other professionals about how badly they were 'mistreated'.

### ***Impact:***

- Makes new partners, friends, and associates feel like rescuers.
- Builds credibility with professionals while discrediting the survivor.
- Isolates the survivor from truth and outside support.

## **About Work & Achievements**

### ***Common Lies:***

- I had an amazing career doing X...
- I was the best at my job.
- Everyone at work respected me.
- My ex/business partner ripped me off.
- My ex-employers always... (treated me badly, were jealous, didn't recognize my value, etc.)
- My bosses manipulated me into leaving / into failing.
- I was fired because... (jealousy, politics, discrimination — never their own behavior).
- My employers never recognized my true value. They didn't pay me what I was worth or respect my contributions. Taking extra resources, money, or time wasn't wrong — it was my way of balancing the scales, of getting what I deserved.

***Underlying message:***

- I'm too talented, honest, misunderstood, innocent, or uneducated for people to handle — they victimized me out of envy or corruption. If I bent the rules, it was only because I was already being mistreated.

***Tactics often used:***

- Inflating resumes and accomplishments.
- Rewriting failures as persecution.
- Claiming sabotage or unfair dismissal.
- Framing theft or misuse of resources as compensation.
- Presenting themselves as 'too good' for corrupt systems.
- Extorting money while blaming others' greed.

***Impact:***

- Gains admiration or sympathy without merit.
- Hides instability or irresponsibility.
- Normalizes exploitation of employers, business partners, or clients.

- Provides excuses for financial exploitation.
- Creates guilt in survivors, making them feel they must 'make it up' to the narcissist.
- Traps survivors into 'helping' fix their career or finances.

## **About Honesty & Loyalty**

### ***Common Lies:***

- I've always been honest with you.
- I would never lie to you.
- I would never cheat on you.
- I was manipulated into lying / cheating — it wasn't really me.
- I've always been a good person.

### ***Underlying message:***

- If I was dishonest, it's only because someone else pressured me. I am the one who was tricked or victimized — not the one who betrayed you. Deep down, I'm still the 'good person' here.

### ***Tactics often used:***

- Denying infidelity or wrongdoing outright.
- Minimizing lies as 'small' or 'white lies.'
- Shifting blame onto others.
- Claiming noble motives ('I lied to protect you').
- Reinforcing a global identity of 'goodness' to make dishonesty harder to confront.
- Presenting themselves publicly as altruistic, kind, loving, caring, and selfless humans who have only ever been wronged — especially by ex-partners.

### ***Impact:***

- Undermines trust in the relationship.

- Keeps the survivor off balance and questioning their own instincts.
- Excuses betrayal and shifts guilt to the victim.
- Creates cycles of doubt and justification.
- Makes the survivor feel cruel or unreasonable for questioning someone who claims to be 'so good' and 'so loving.'
- Confuses outsiders, who see only the narcissist's polished, caring image — leaving the survivor doubly isolated.

## **Financial Lies**

### ***Common Lies:***

- I'll pay you back.
- I don't have any debt.
- People have manipulated me financially, that's why I'm broke.
- I'm a free spirit — I don't follow society's rules or the man's rules.

### ***Underlying message:***

- My financial instability isn't my fault. I'm different, above rules and systems, and therefore not responsible for the mess I create.

### ***Tactics often used:***

- Hiding debt or shifting it to others.
- Exaggerating wealth or assets.
- Framing irresponsibility as 'nonconformity' or 'freedom.'
- Giving small gifts or gestures to manipulate people into giving larger sums or ongoing financial support.
- Guilt-tripping for loans or gifts.
- Fabricating emergencies to get money.
- Flipping blame for financial losses.

***Impact:***

- Drains the survivor's resources.
- Creates dependency and financial entrapment.
- Normalizes recklessness as 'authenticity' or 'freedom.'
- Tricks others into feeling responsible for the narcissist's well-being.
- Causes guilt and confusion around money.
- Keeps survivor tied through financial obligations.

**Community & Reputation*****Common Lies:***

- Everyone thinks you're the problem.
- People say I'm such a good person.
- Nobody believes you.

***Underlying message:***

- I am the misunderstood victim. You have treated me unfairly, and I will make sure everyone hears and believes my version of the story.

***Tactics often used:***

- Gossip, half-truths, and twisting events.
- Selective disclosure to outsiders.
- Crying victim in public.
- Recruiting 'flying monkeys' to repeat their narrative.

***Impact:***

- Isolates the survivor socially.

- Damages credibility and reputation.
- Builds a false image of the narcissist as virtuous.
- Makes escape harder by surrounding survivor with doubt.

## **Excuses for Abuse**

### ***Common Lies:***

- I only lied to protect you.
- I was just joking.
- You made me do it.
- If you loved me, you wouldn't question me.
- I was manipulated by others into reacting this way.
- I was under so much stress — anyone would have snapped.
- That wasn't abuse, you're exaggerating.
- I only did it because I love you so much.

### ***Underlying message:***

- My harmful behavior is not my responsibility. I was provoked, misunderstood, or overwhelmed. You are to blame — or it wasn't really abuse at all.

### ***Tactics often used:***

- Minimizing ('it wasn't that bad').
- Humor as cover ('it was just a joke').
- Shifting blame onto the survivor.
- Emotional blackmail ('if you loved me, you wouldn't...').
- Justifying with stress, alcohol, or outside influence.
- DARVO: Deny, Attack, Reverse Victim and Offender.
- Reframing control as passion ('I only act this way because I care so much').

***Impact:***

- Creates confusion about what abuse really is.
- Induces guilt and self-blame.
- Normalizes cycles of harm.
- Silences survivors from speaking up.
- Erases survivor's pain while reinforcing abuser's victim identity.
- Erodes self-esteem and reality-testing.

**Personal History*****Common Lies:***

- My family treated me terribly. (later contradicted with opposite accounts)
- I had a perfect childhood. (later contradicts with abuse stories)
- I was horribly abused. (then contradicts with happy childhood stories)
- I've never done drugs / I've never cheated / I've never hurt anyone.
- I was manipulated by my family / teachers / friends all my life.

***Underlying message:***

- My past proves I was always the victim — therefore, I can't be the abuser now.

***Tactics often used:***

- Contradictory life stories.
- Fabricated hardships.
- Rewriting personal history to fit the moment.

***Impact:***

- Generates sympathy.

- Excuses bad behavior.
- Creates confusion about what's real.
- Prevents accountability.

## **In Relationships**

### ***Common Lies:***

- You're the only one I've ever loved like this.
- I'll change.
- It won't happen again.
- You're overreacting.
- You manipulated me into acting this way.

### ***Underlying message:***

- Even in this relationship, I'm the one being mistreated — not you.

### ***Tactics often used:***

- Love-bombing and idealization.
- Future-faking ('we'll get married,' 'things will be different').
- Minimizing harm ('you're overreacting').
- Reframing control as passion.

### ***Impact:***

- Creates cycles of hope and disappointment.
- Fosters dependency on promises of change.
- Traps survivor in repeated betrayals.
- Deepens emotional confusion and attachment.

