

Listening 2. Page 80

Alex and Sarah were best friends. They always got on well and rarely had any problems. One afternoon, Sarah pulled Alex aside. She looked very serious.

"Can you keep a promise?" she asked quietly.

"Of course," Alex replied, feeling curious.

"I'm planning a surprise party for Ben's birthday," Sarah explained. "It's a huge secret. You have to promise you won't tell anyone."

Alex promised. He felt excited about the party.

The next day at school, their friend Chloe asked Alex if he knew about any plans for Ben's birthday. Alex felt a little nervous. He didn't want to lie, but he had to keep a secret. He tried to change the subject, but he accidentally mentioned a "big surprise". He immediately felt embarrassed and his face turned red.

Later, Sarah asked him, "Did you talk to Chloe about Ben?"

Alex decided to tell a lie. "No, not at all," he said, looking at the floor.

But the next morning, Sarah was waiting for him by the school gate. She was very upset. "I received a text message from Chloe last night," she said. "She asked me about the surprise party. You told her!"

Sarah was clearly disappointed. They started to have an argument right there.

All day, Alex felt miserable. He couldn't focus in class. He knew he had made a big mistake by lying. That evening, he decided he had to tell the truth. He called Sarah.

"I'm so sorry," he said. "I accidentally said something, and then I was too scared to tell you. It was wrong to lie."

Sarah was quiet for a moment. Then, her voice sounded more calm. "Thank you for telling me the truth, Alex. I was really hurt, but I forgive you."

The surprise party was a huge success. Ben was absolutely delighted! After the party, Alex's parents told him they were very proud of him for fixing his mistake.