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Lying occurs everywhere in our life, but people of different cultures interpret and understand it differently. This subject is discussed by philosophers and language experts, psychologists and lawyers, pedagogues and parents. Is the lie so amoral and wicked? And is every deception harmful? The study of this phenomenon helps to realize the essence of human relationships, not only among members of one culture, but also from different cultures. This, in turn, will help avoid intercultural conflicts. The study is based on a review of scientific literature; the data is presented by dialogue fragments from American literature. The paper discusses the reasons of false utterances, analyzes their linguistic and paralinguistic markers. A comparative analysis of non-verbal markers, accompanying falsehood allows to identify lies in different cultures. Typical situations of misunderstanding can be avoided if you learn how to recognize and understand the secret language of gestures.