

People often claim that all lies are conscious and intentional. If you don't lie on purpose, you're not lying at all. That's incorrect, and typically a dishonest belief. By that standard, it's almost impossible to lie to yourself. How do you fool yourself if you consciously know that you're lying?

Justin Mallone
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Topic sentence describing a common view:

People often claim that all lies are conscious and intentional.

Elaboration/restatement of common view:

If you don't lie on purpose, you're not lying at all.

Elliot's initial statement regarding his position on the common view:

That's incorrect, and typically a dishonest belief.

Elliot's criticism of common view:

By that standard, it's almost impossible to lie to yourself.

Argument for the criticism in the form of a question that the common view can't effectively answer:

How do you fool yourself if you consciously know that you're lying?