



# Five Precepts Story

*This is an interactive story for the teacher to read out as an activity to deepen students' understanding of the five precepts.*

One day a young Buddhist called Charlie was walking down a street in *[insert the name of the town your school is located in]*. Charlie had recently started following the five precepts.

*[Do students need a bit of help remembering what they are? Ask for hands up or ask five students directly for the five precepts]*

Great, now the five precepts are fresh in Charlie's memory, he is confidently walking down the street, enjoying the starry sky and warm summer night.

He walks past a pub and sees some friends inside, so in Charlie goes, thinking to himself "I won't drink much, to respect the fifth precept, but I can drink a little as long as I'm not drunk and intoxicated." Charlie and his friends enjoy a nice chat and as the night goes on, they don't notice that they had quite a few beers and are not really thinking straight anymore. "Oops, that's the fifth precept out of the window."

Just as Charlie's group of friends is starting to leave, a beautiful human walks into the pub. Charlie recognises her, it's Alex, the partner of one of his school friends, Max. They start chatting and before either of them really knows what is happening, they're kissing in a corner. Max walks in the door and sees them, he is not even angry, just very sad. He really loves Alex and feels completely betrayed by her and Charlie.

Do you think Charlie has broken another precept? If yes, which one? *[The correct answer is the third precept of refraining from misusing sexuality.]*

Charlie starts defending himself, saying all sorts of silly things, "It's not my fault, she kissed me first, it wasn't such a great kiss anyway, you can have her." Just awful, mean, untrue things. What precept is this breaking? *[The correct answer is the fourth precept of refraining from harmful speech.]*

Suddenly Charlie feels sick and rushes out of the pub in case he throws up. Once Charlie's outside, he forgets that no one has paid for their drinks and walks off towards the carpark. Although he didn't realise in the moment, Charlie just broke another precept, which one was it? *[The correct answer is the second precept of refraining from taking what is not freely given.]*

Charlie arrives at his car, not aware of the danger he is putting himself and others in. He jumps in the driver's seat, and heads home. Halfway home, suddenly a *[insert animal that would live around your area, e.g. deer, fox]* springs out in front of the car. Charlie tries to break, but his reflexes are too slow, and the front of the car hits the poor animal. It is dead on the spot. Another precept broken. This night really did not turn out the way Charlie imagined. Which precept was it this time? *[The correct answer is the first precept of refraining from killing.]*