

# Fairness and Unfairness

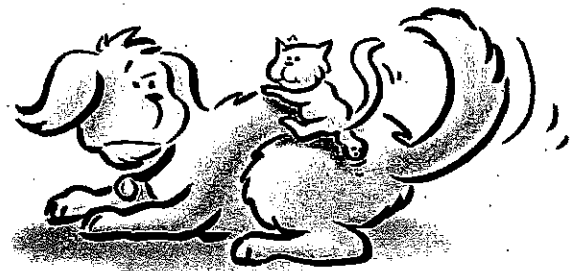
## WORD LIST

amenable • deception    forbearance    objective    partiality  
 partisanship    preconceived    slander    subjective    tolerate

We have all heard preschoolers shout simply, “That’s not fair!” But fairness is actually a range of complex and subtle concepts that have been the subject of much thought and discussion. The words in this lesson help you communicate about these timeless topics.

- 1. amenable** (ə-mēn’ə-bəl) *adjective* from Latin *a-*, “against” + *minari*, “to threaten”  
 Willing to consider; open to advice or suggestion  
 • Meena’s parents were **amenable** to extending her curfew, as long as she had her cell phone and called to check in.
- 2. deception** (dī-sēp’shən) *noun* from Latin *decipere*, “to deceive”  
 A trick; an attempt to make someone believe something that is not true  
 • When she didn’t do her homework, the child resorted to **deception**, telling her teacher she felt sick and needed to see the nurse.  
*deceive verb* Don’t try to **deceive** me; I know you came home late!  
*deceptive adjective* His **deceptive** actions revealed his true intentions.
- 3. forbearance** (fôr-bâr’əns) *noun* from Old English *forberan*, “to put up with”  
 Patience; not reacting when annoyed or harmed  
 • The big dog showed gentle **forbearance** toward the bothersome new kittens.  
*forbear verb* (past tense: **forbore**) The king decided to **forbear** punishing the thief, giving him a chance to reform instead.
- 4. objective** (əb-jĕk’tīv) from Latin *ob-*, “toward” + *iacere*, “to throw”  
 a. *adjective* Fair; impartial  
 • It is difficult to be **objective** when you are judging a contest that a family member is competing in.  
 b. *adjective* Realistic; actual  
 • Many prejudices disappear when faced with **objective** facts.  
 c. *noun* A goal or purpose  
 • Toni’s **objective** was to save enough money to buy a piano.  
*objectivity noun* **Objectivity** is essential to making fair decisions.
- 5. partiality** (pār’shē-ăl’ī-tē) *noun* from Latin *parte*, “part”  
 A favorable bias or a prejudice toward something  
 • The competition judges’ **partiality** to sopranos became clear when we noticed that all the finalists sang in that range.  
*partial adjective* Costa’s mother knew he was **partial** to chocolate cake.

We show *forbearance* to people and to situations that annoy or harm us.



a forbearing dog

6. **partisanship** (pär'ti-zənshĭp') *noun* from Latin *pars*, "part"  
Very strong, sometimes excessive support for one group, idea, or cause
- Committee members showed their **partisanship** when they approved their party's nominee, despite his lack of qualifications.

**partisan** *adjective* Driven by **partisan** enthusiasm, Terry placed twenty "Vote for Smith" bumper stickers on her car.

7. **preconceived** (prē'kən-sēvd') *adjective* from Latin *pre-*, "before"  
+ *concipere*, "to take hold of"

Believed before one has full knowledge or experience

- Sean had a **preconceived** idea that he would hate summer camp.

**preconception** *noun* Any **preconceptions** we had that short people had trouble with basketball vanished when we saw Gabrielle on the court.

8. **slander** (slän'dər) from Latin *scaudalum*, "a cause of offense or sin"

a. *noun* False and harmful statements about someone

- The man was accused of **slander** because he called his political rival a thief.

b. *verb* To make false and harmful statements about someone

- The columnist was sued after she **slandered** her competitor on a talk show.

9. **subjective** (səb-jĕk'tiv) *adjective* from Latin *sub-*, "under" + *iacere*, "to throw"

Governed by personal thoughts or feelings

- Judgments about art are often **subjective**.

**subjectivity** *noun* The coach appeared to show **subjectivity** when he picked his favorite student to be team captain.

10. **tolerate** (tōl'ə-rāt') *verb* from Latin *tolerare*, "to bear"

To allow; to bear; to endure

- The understanding neighbors tried to **tolerate** the noise from the children who lived upstairs.

**tolerance** *noun* She showed great **tolerance** for differing viewpoints.

**toleration** *noun* The principal had no **toleration** for students who ran in the halls.

*Nonpartisan* means "objective," or "not taking sides" with any group.

*Subjective* is the opposite of *objective*.

## WORD ENRICHMENT

### The prefix meaning "before"

The *pre-* in *preconceived* means "before." We are still using this prefix to form words. Newer ones include *prepay*, *preadolescent*, *pre-op* (before an operation), and *pregame*. Even the word *prefix* contains *pre-*; the word means "fixed before."