

Kindness

WORD LIST

altruism	amicable	benefactor	benign	bountiful
civility	exemplary	humanitarian	indulge	rectify

Acts of kindness can be as small as thinking about other people's feelings, or as large as dedicating a lifetime to eliminating world hunger. Each act, large or small, is important. The words in this lesson describe the varied ways in which people show care and concern.

- 1. altruism** (ăl'trō-iz'əm) *noun* from Latin *alter*, "other"
Unselfish concern and actions for the welfare of others

 - Andrew Carnegie's **altruism** inspired him to finance libraries across the United States.

altruistic *adjective* The **altruistic** teacher donated his time to tutor students after class.
- 2. amicable** (ăm'ī-kə-bəl) *adjective* from Latin *amicus*, "friend"
Friendly; showing goodwill

 - The teacher had an **amicable** meeting with his student's parents.

amicability *noun* Known for her **amicability**, the town's mayor always stopped to chat with people.
- 3. benefactor** (bĕn'ə-făk'tər) *noun* from Latin *bene*, "good" + *facere*, "to do"
A person who gives financial or other aid

 - Jamie received a scholarship from an unknown **benefactor**.
- 4. benign** (bĭ-nĭn') *adjective* from Latin *benignus*, "kind"

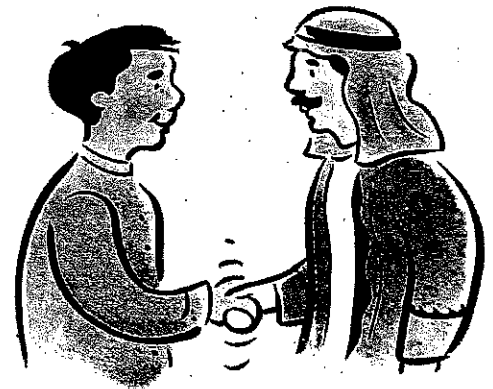
 - Kind and gentle
 - Magda's **benign** manner makes her a good kindergarten teacher.
 - Harmless; not dangerous to health
 - The mole on my arm was **benign** and did not need to be removed.
- 5. bountiful** (boun'tə-fəl) *adjective* from Latin *bonitas*, "goodness"
Abundant; plentiful

 - As people learned that the family's house had burned down, **bountiful** donations of food and other necessities began to pour in.

bounty *noun* The harvest resulted in a **bounty** of apples, grain, and root vegetables.
- 6. civility** (sĭ-vĭl'ĭ-tē) *noun* from Latin *civus*, "citizen"
Courteous behavior; politeness

 - The committee members treated each other with **civility**, even though they represented opposing interests.

civil *adjective* "Keep a **civil** tongue," the teacher warned the rude student.



amicable

7. **exemplary** (ĭg-zĕm'plĕ-rĕ) *adjective* from Middle English *exemplum*, "example"
Worthy of imitation; admirable
- The great baseball player Lou Gehrig faced his terrible illness with **exemplary** courage.

Someone whose behavior is **exemplary** sets a good **example** for others.

8. **humanitarian** (hyŏŏ-măn'-ĭ-târ'ĕ-ən) from Latin *humanus*, "human"
- a. *noun* A person concerned with social reforms and improving human welfare
- One reason former president Jimmy Carter is considered a great **humanitarian** is his work with Habitat for Humanity.
- b. *adjective* Intended to help humans
- She reported the crimes against the refugees to a **humanitarian** group.

humanitarianism *noun* During the American Civil War, Clara Barton demonstrated her **humanitarianism** by working with dying soldiers.

9. **indulge** (ĭn-dŭlj') *verb* from Latin *indulgere*, "to give way to"
To yield to desires or wishes
- Cora **indulges** in a nap every afternoon at one o'clock.

indulgence *noun* Po-Yee considered her husband's antique cars to be an expensive **indulgence**.

indulgent *adjective* Louis was **indulgent** of his friend's need to be alone, recognizing that he needed time to recover from his trauma.

10. **rectify** (rĕk'tĕ-fĭ') *verb* from Latin *rectus*, "right"
To fix or correct; to set right
- Lydia hoped to **rectify** the town's lack of good facilities for children by organizing a committee to build a playground.

Indulge is used with reflexives (I **indulge myself** by shopping) and with the preposition *in* (I **indulge in** bubble baths).



indulge

WORD ENRICHMENT

Civility and citizens

The word *civility* is taken from the Latin word *civitas*, which means "a state that is formed from *citizens*." The word *city* also comes from this root. The concept of a *citizen* dates back to the city-states of Greece, such as Athens and Sparta. A *citizen* of these cities was entitled to *civic* rights. But each *citizen* was expected to act with *civility*, or good citizenship. In time, the meaning of *civility* came to be associated with politeness. We also get the words *civilization* and *civilized* from this root.