

Nelson Mandela – Glossary

admire verb [transitive]

to greatly respect and approve of someone or something:

I've always admired her dedication and commitment.

court noun [count or uncount]

a place where trials take place and legal cases are decided:

The man will appear in court on Monday.

democratic adjective

involving elections in which people vote for their political representatives:

the democratic system

disaster noun [count or uncount]

something very bad that happens and causes a lot of damage or kills a lot of people:

A series of disasters forced the company to close down.

election noun [count]

an occasion when people vote for someone to represent them, especially in a government:

She is standing in elections for the National Assembly.

equal noun [count]

someone or something that has the same value, rights, or importance as another person or thing

equal opportunity noun [count or uncount]

a situation in which people have the same opportunities in life as other people, without being treated in an unfair way because of their race, sex, religion, or age

experience verb [transitive]

if you experience a problem or situation, you have that problem or are in that situation:

Almost every country of the industrial world is experiencing economic problems.

figure noun [count]

a person:

She was the dominant figure in British politics in the 1980s.

harmony noun [uncount]

a situation in which people live and work in a happy, peaceful way with others:

racial/social/domestic harmony

hold verb [transitive]

to have a job or position:

President Mitterrand held office for 14 years.

illegal adjective

not allowed by the law:

It is illegal for employers to discriminate on the grounds of race.

life noun [uncount]

a punishment in which someone is sent to prison for the rest of their life

minority adjective

belonging to a racial minority:

kids from minority backgrounds

oppress verb [transitive]

to treat people who are less powerful in an unfair and cruel way

party noun [count]

an organized group of people who share the same ideas about how a country should be governed, and who try to get elected:

the two main political parties

power noun [uncount]

political control of a country or government:

The ruling Social Democratic party has been in power for ten years.

pressure noun [count or uncount]

attempts to persuade or force someone to do something:

Pressure for political change increased in the 1990s.

prison noun [count or uncount]

an institution where people are kept as a punishment for committing a crime:

He's currently in prison for tax fraud.

public service noun [count]

a service that the government pays for, such as education or health care

race noun [count or uncount]

a group of people who are similar because they have the same skin colour or other physical features, or because they speak the same language or have the same history or customs:

We do not discriminate on the basis of race or gender.

release verb [transitive]

to let someone leave a place where they have been kept:

The authorities had recently released two suspects.

retire verb [intransitive]

to stop working permanently, especially when you are old:

He retired from the army last month.

sentence verb [transitive]

if a judge sentences someone, they officially say what that person's punishment will be:

He was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

separate adjective

not together:

Clients' funds should be kept separate from the firm's own money.

set verb [transitive]

to put someone or something in a particular state:

The hostages have been set free after 34 days in captivity.

society noun [uncount]

people in general living together in organized communities, with laws and traditions controlling the way that they behave towards each other:

Society has to be prepared to support its elderly people.

speech noun [count]

a formal occasion when someone speaks to an audience, or the words that someone speaks to an audience:

She writes most of the president's speeches.

trial noun [count or uncount]

the process of examining a case in a court of law and deciding whether someone is guilty of a crime:

a murder/rape/fraud trial