



Morality

Conversation > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

morality	Principles concerning the difference between what is right/wrong and good/bad.
[noun]	<i>Ex: The protesters questioned the morality of the war.</i>

virtue	A trait, behavior, or quality that is morally good.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Kindness is an important virtue.</i>

break (one's) word	To do what one promised or said one would do.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: Jessica promised to go to the prom with me, but she didn't keep her word.</i>



ethics	The study of the moral principles that guide people's behavior.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Ethics is a very broad and expansive topic.</i>

possess	To have, or own something.
[verb]	<i>Ex: She possesses natural beauty.</i>

drastically	In a way that is severe and sudden or has very noticeable effects.
[adverb]	<i>Ex: Their budget has been drastically reduced.</i>



Exercise 2 – Dialogue

Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.

Manager: The company has recently updated its ethics guidelines, and I wanted to go through them with you.

Nathan: Just me, boss?

Manager: Yes, I've found that you tend to need a little extra guidance when it comes to morality.

Nathan: Seriously? I thought I was a model employee...

Manager: Not exactly. For example, you have a bad habit of breaking your word.

Nathan: Woah! That's drastically offending to me.

Manager: Well, too bad. Our new policy identifies honesty as an important virtue.



Nathan: But, I keep my word when it comes to the really important things.

Manager: Yes... But not when it comes to small things, like playing pranks on your co-workers.

Nathan: I just like to have fun, boss. It's not intended in an ill manner.

Manager: You need to possess the discipline to not disrupt other people's work all the time.

Nathan: Well, if our new ethics guidelines require us to be boring, I'm not sure I want to be ethical.

Manager: Too bad, because if you want to keep your job, you're going to have to follow the new rules.

Nathan: Oh... that's a fair point. Okay, I'll comply.



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.

Answer Pool

drastically

morality

virtue

breaks his word

possess

ethics

1. Honesty is the _____ we value a lot.
2. He always _____. You can't trust him.
3. It is important to _____ good communication skills to work in sales.
4. They're completely lacking in _____.
5. I often question her _____. She behaves badly.
6. His opinion _____ changed the situation.



Exercise 4 – Role Play

Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.

Scene: Your boss has just imposed a new ethics policy. Talk to your colleague John about it. The teacher can be John.



Exercise 5 – Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your tutor.

1. In your country, how does a person show politeness?
2. What is considered impolite in your country? Why?
3. Is it important to be polite? Why/why not?
4. What gestures show politeness in your country?
5. How do you define a good person? Please share your opinion.