



lingoda

Moral arguments and debates

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_2052X_EN

LANGUAGE
English

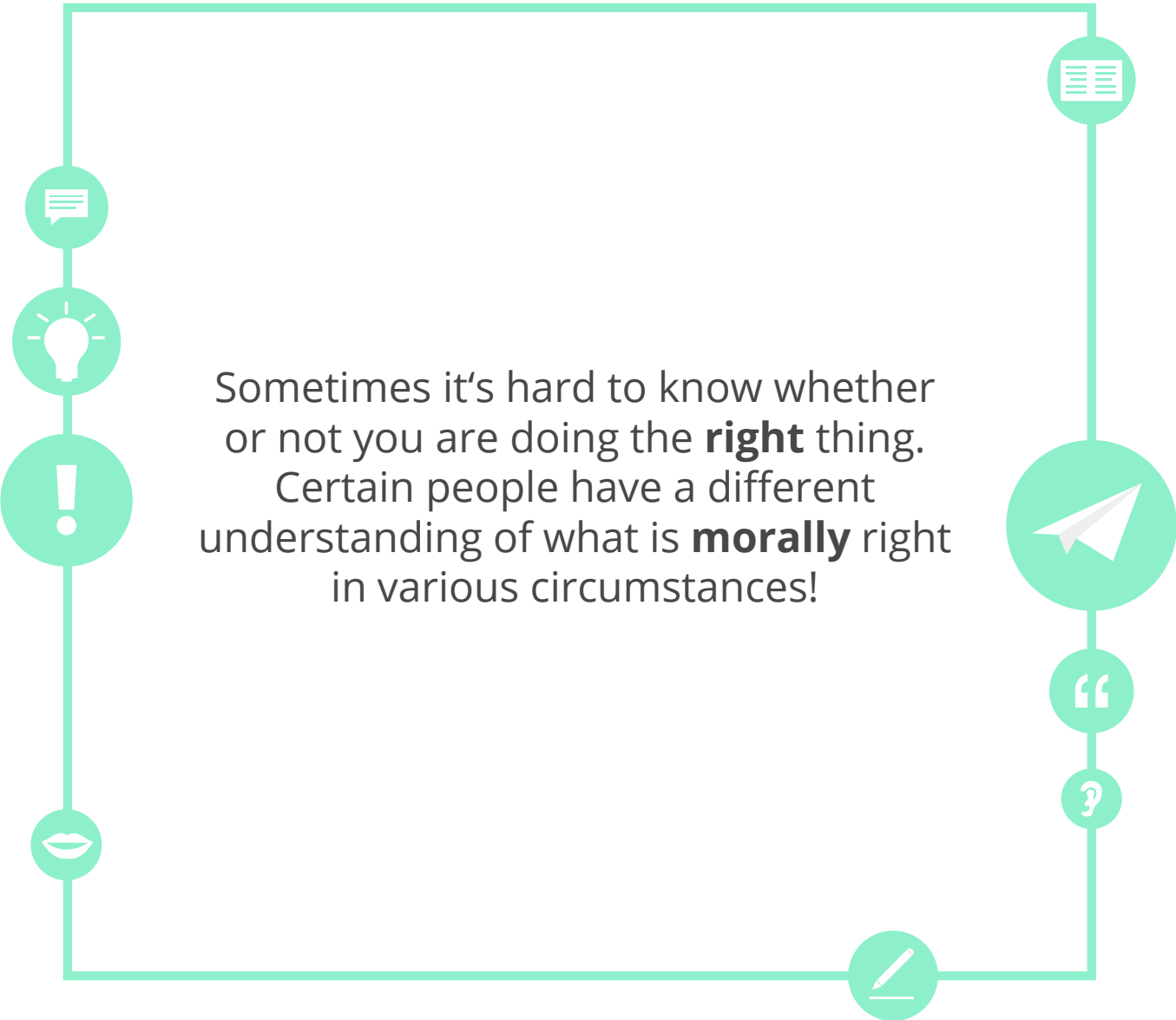




Goals

- Can recognise and recall vocabulary related to morality and ethics.
- Can discuss what moral values are and a range of ethical issues in depth.





Sometimes it's hard to know whether
or not you are doing the **right** thing.
Certain people have a different
understanding of what is **morally** right
in various circumstances!



Warm-up

Stealing is **wrong**.

Can we agree on that?

Is it **wrong** for a starving child to steal a loaf of bread?





Tell your teacher

What are some examples of doing the right thing?



donating to charity

being honest

sharing



Illegally downloading the new season of
your favourite TV show

Stealing money from your friend

Walking out of a restaurant without paying

[illegible]



Big question

**Is it important to
tell the truth?**

ethics

Ethics explores the ideas of what is right and wrong. It studies good and bad in an attempt to understand how people should live and the correct actions that determine a good life.



Our school **ethics** lessons helped teach us right from wrong.

morality

Morality refers to the standards of right and proper behaviour – conduct based on virtue and wisdom.



The heart of a good education is to instil a strong system of **morality**.



The victims accused the attacker of having no **morality** or conscience.



Why ethics and morality?

- **Ethics** and **morality** are very important topics to discuss. They help us navigate the question of **how should I live?**
- These ideas not only help us in our day to day lives, but also guide us on our way through life at a more essential level. Systems of morality are deeply ingrained in our being – we all have values and standards, even if we don't realise it.

Below are all examples of **ethical questions** – many people will answer them differently.

- Is it better to pursue your own happiness, or sacrifice yourself to a cause greater than yourself?
- Is it more important to practise a career you love, or one that makes you rich?
- Is it important for you to practise vegetarianism?
- Is a successful career more important than a rich family life?



Moral values

Moral values guide us through major and minor decisions in life.

In some ways our moral values define who we are – they can help us stay true to ourselves.

What is a **moral value** you have a strong belief in?



morally bankrupt

inexcusable

A person can be described as **morally bankrupt** if their behaviour reflects a complete abandonment or disregard for ethics or morality.

Inexcusable behaviour pertains to an action which is so extreme that it is impossible to excuse or justify.



The director was revealed to be **morally bankrupt** after it emerged he was embezzling money from the company. His actions are all the more **inexcusable** since the money had been earmarked for a donation to charity.



New words

unconscionable

They will serve ten years behind bars for their **unconscionable** behaviour.

unprincipled

The crowd called for the minister to step down as a result of his **unprincipled** remarks.

unwarranted

Your **unwarranted** accusations have no basis in fact.

indefensible

Some of the arguments in your paper are **indefensible**.

unfair

It is **unfair** that some children are born with opportunity while others are born into poverty.

extreme

Much of his political support came from voters with **extreme** views.

debating

In a debate, two people with different views on a topic outline their arguments in an attempt to present the strongest position. Following these guidelines can help make you a more effective debater.

- State your position clearly
- Support your argument with rational and logical points
- Express your position passionately
- Listen carefully to your opponent's position



Debates can take many forms – they can be formally organised or occur spontaneously in a conversation!



Agreement and disagreement



- In a debate it is important to know vocabulary which expresses **agreement** or **disagreement** with an idea. Many of the words introduced in this lesson can be used in this capacity.

Agreement	Disagreement
acceptable	unacceptable
reasonable	unreasonable
fair	unfair
decent	indecent
practicable	impracticable

stating your opinion

asking for an opinion

An important part of a debate is **stating your opinion clearly**.

The phrases in the upper box are good phrases to help you begin to state your opinion.

It is also useful to be able to ask your opponent for their opinion on one of your arguments or what you have said. Use expressions from the second box to ask for their opinion.



- In my opinion...
- As far as I'm concerned...
- It is my view that...



- How do you feel about it?
- What do you think?
- Do you agree?



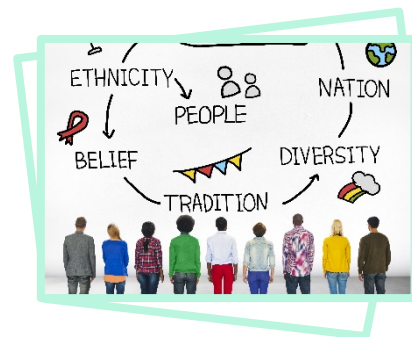
Values questionnaire – give reasons for your answers!

	AGREE	DISAGREE
1. If you don't feel like talking about a particular topic, it's okay to tell a white lie.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Smoking should be banned in all public places.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Violence can be acceptable in some situations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Family is more important than career.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Purple is a horrible colour. We should not buy or wear anything that is purple.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Your values

Take some time to consider your own ethical system. Make a list of some of the values you consider most important.



moral grey area

A **grey area** is a term used to describe a blurring of two boundaries. A **moral grey area** describes an action that is difficult to define as right or wrong. Different people will have different perspectives on the answer.



A very poor person stealing from somebody much wealthier to pay for their children's school books could be described as a **moral grey area**.



Right or wrong?

**Read each scenario. Did the character do the wrong or right thing?
Why?**

Use your own system of morals to decide!

The teller at the supermarket gave John the wrong change. He decides to keep the extra \$20.

Wally's joke offended some of the guests at dinner.

Javier decided to ride the subway without a train ticket. He didn't get caught.

Nick's bag was over the size limit to carry on to the plane, but he took it onboard anyway.

A homeless person asked Sarah for some money in the street. She didn't give him anything.

Peter used the photocopier at work to print documents for his Spanish class.

Lisa told Ted she would help him with his homework. She feels sick and decides to stay in bed instead.

Michael plagiarised some sentences from Wikipedia in his essay. His professor didn't notice.

Rodrigo added some work experience to his CV which was untrue. He got the job.

Emma told off a man who was about to squash a spider. She let it carefully out of a window instead.

Tom sneaked out of his parents house and went to the house party after being told not to.

Travis borrowed his friend's trumpet without asking so he could play the concert in time.

right

wrong



Dialogue – did Damon do the right thing?



Damon, what's the matter?

Oh dear! I'm sure it's not as bad as you think. Tell me what happened!

Really? That seems so unlike you – but I understand panicking in the moment. Is having this skill really that important for the job?

Well then I wouldn't worry about it too much – you can always learn the basics before the job starts. It doesn't sound like they expect you to be Picasso or anything!

Hi Tim, I'm a bit worried actually. I just had a job interview and I lied a little bit about my experience. I'm worrying and wondering should I come forward.

Well, I really want this job and I do think I'm a very good fit! The problem is, they want someone who has skills in photo editing. I panicked and said I know how to use the computer programme they need.

To be honest, I don't think so. The main focus of the job is customer service and social media. They just want us to be able to occasionally edit photos for advertising...



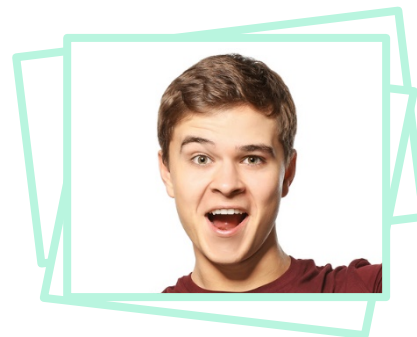
Your experience

Have you ever been in a similar situation to Damon? Can you relate to his concerns?



Over to you

Write a letter to Damon giving him some advice. In your opinion, did he do the right thing?



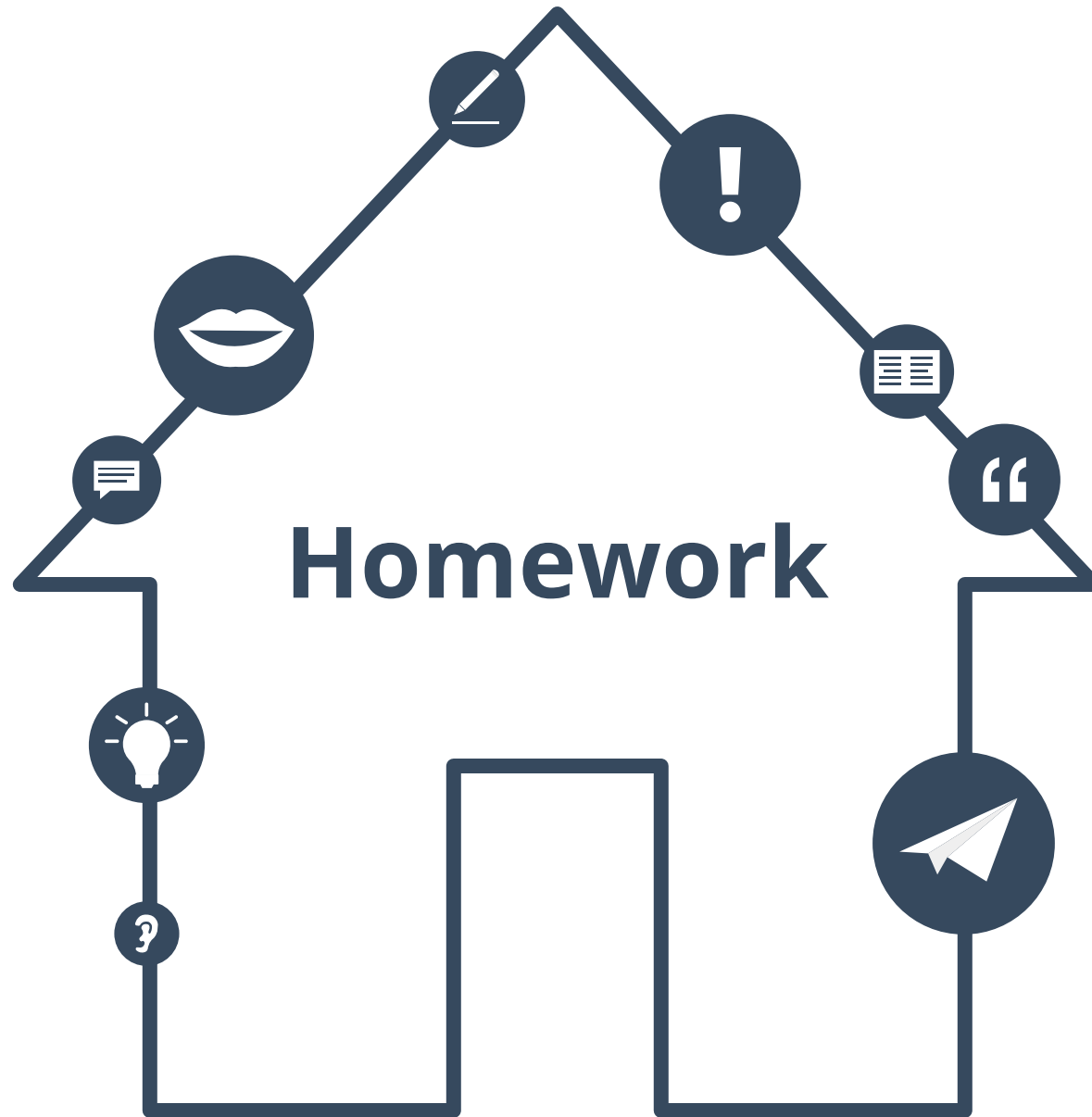


Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







Evaluation

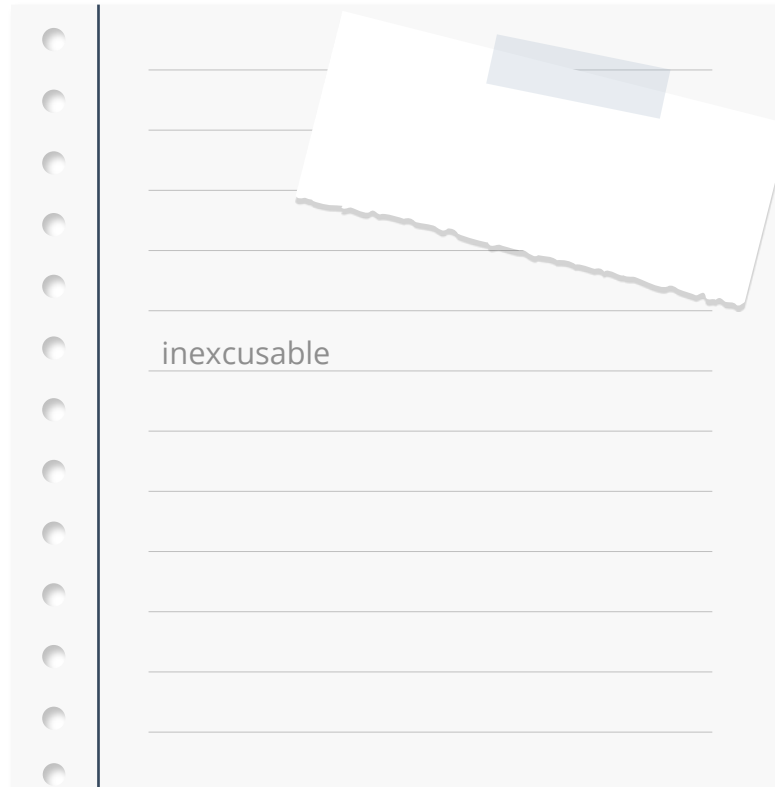
**Write two things you enjoyed and learnt about in this lesson.
Write two things which were more difficult to understand.**

A vertical sheet of white paper with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or worksheet, intended for students to write their evaluation.



My favourite words

Update your list of favourite words with some of the vocabulary from this lesson!





Favourite words in sentences

Place the vocabulary from the last slide into a sentence.

○
○
○

inexcusable

→

Your treatment of this cat is inexcusable.

○
○



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