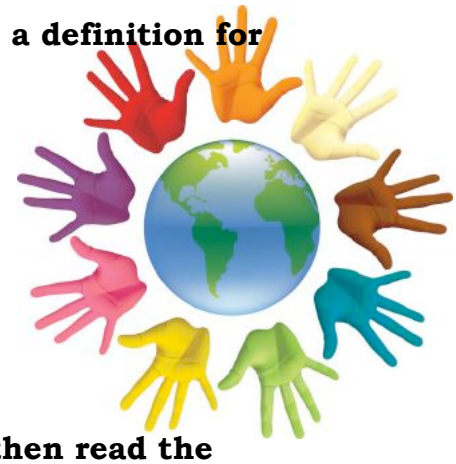
Weird and Wonderful.



Activity One – With the help of the dictionary write a definition for each of these idiomatic expressions.

- It takes all sorts to make a world.
- Different strokes for different folks.
- Whatever floats your boat!
- Whatever turns you on!
- Live and let live.
- Variety is the spice of life.
- Vive la difference!

Activity Two – What is tolerance? Try to define it, then read the following definition and say if you agree...

"To put it in very simple terms, *tolerance* means to tolerate or put up with differences. It means showing respect for the race, religion, age, gender, opinions, and ideologies of other people or groups. Tolerance means different things to different people. It is when something is disagreeable that tolerance is expected, and in more politically correct cultures, demanded.

Tolerance can be shown in many ways. A person might fully disagree with others on any issue from religion to same sex marriage, while at the same time respecting those with different opinions and treating them with dignity and respect. Disagreement alone does not equal intolerance." *WikiGeek*.

Activity Three – *How tolerant are you?* Ask the questions to your partner and then sum up how tolerant you think they are.

Do you tend to judge people quickly based on their way of dressing or talking?
Do you avoid people who have a certain lifestyle or 'look'?
Do you enjoy meeting a wide variety of people?
Do you like to have friends from different walks of life?
Do you overtly 'disapprove' of people who have different beliefs and interests from yours?
Do you ever mock people for their beliefs or way of life?
Do you try to convince people that your way of life is best?
Do you enjoy asking other people about their culture and beliefs?
Do you like to read about different cultures and religions?
Do you like to watch films about different ways of living?

Activity Four - Describe the way you live your life.

Circle the adjectives, which describe your way of thinking.	*Circle the adjectives, which describe your way of life.*
Freethinking Wacky Alternative Traditional Creative Reactionary Conservative Liberal	Sporty Adventurous Relaxed Lazy Ambitious Hard working Intellectual Ordinary Boring
Circle the adjectives, which describe your way of dressing.	*Which of the following best describes you:*
Fashionable Trendy Chic Scruffy Smart Businesslike	Creature of habit Go-getter Spiritual Timid Confident High-achiever

Activity Five – Explain the two quotations from Gandhi and the Dalai Lama.

"In the practice of tolerance, one's enemy is the best teacher." Dalai Lama

"Tolerance implies a gratuitous assumption of the inferiority of other faiths to one's own" Gandhi

Activity Six – Read the article and answer the questions.

How to be more Tolerant of other people.

Resist The Impulse To Reject Things You Don't Understand

You start talking to a guy and he seems to be saying something that makes no sense. Naturally, you think, "Man, that guy is weird!" or if you've known this person for a while, "Have *no* idea what he's talking about!" As a result, you probably start explaining your own point of view or just stop listening to him altogether. After all, he's just talking gibberish right?

In these cases, it's so easy to just dismiss the other person's input. It preserves our thinking patterns and requires very little effort on our part. We won't have to have a headache and rewire our brains!

However, it also doesn't allow us to grow in any way. Without challenging our thought processes, we are doomed to have the same thought processes forever!

Life becomes mundane in that case as we think we know everything. Because we reject other people's perspectives, they have no incentive to try to help us grow, and we stagnate. Because there's nothing for us to learn, the world becomes a pretty predictable and boring place. We get stuck in the same thought pattern spirals over and over again, hating anything that's different or doesn't conform to our expectations.

This makes us a very childish and volatile person. We want everything done our way because we believe our way is the right way. As a result, we forego opportunities to improve our way and become alarmed when things don't "happen like they're supposed to".

So next time this urge happens, maybe it's a good time to think, "Hmmm… here's an opportunity to increase my awareness and expand myself!"

Try To Understand The Other Person's Point Of View

Once we resist the urge to reject the other person's point of view outright, it's time to really try to understand his perspective. After all, our purpose here is to grow as a person, so it makes sense to seek out more information on the subject we don't understand.

We can start by holding back our thoughts of disagreement and try to really listen to what the other person is saying. We'll keep asking him questions until we understand precisely what he is trying to communicate and *why* he thinks the way he does.

This accomplishes two important things. First, we start to learn about the person and the context from which he is speaking. Once we can relate some of our experiences to that context, then the things that person does will start to make much more sense. Once it makes more sense, we can evaluate whether it applies to the situation at hand and use that extra information to make a better

decision than we could have otherwise. After all, if we have no idea what the other person is saying, how can we disagree with it?

Second, the other person can feel that you are [[genuinely interested]] in him (because you are!) By giving him the feeling of being understood, he is now much more open to trying to understand *your* perspective. Once you understand and feel understood, well, what's there not to like?

Let's All Be Friends

When it comes down to it, we're all here because of our [[desire to exist]]. Since the other person exists, he probably knows a thing or two about staying alive too. So how bad can it really be? As long as he's not negatively impacting your existence in a significant way, why not just accept him and be okay with it? Besides, who knows, he might be able to help you down the line!

Also, we're only here for maybe 80 years or so. Do you really want to spend that time hating someone?

http://www.whatithinkabout.com/how-to-be-more-tolerant-of-other-people/

QUESTIONS:

1. What are we tempted to do when we don't understand what someone is saying?
2. For what different reasons does the author advice us to try not to dismiss what people say?
3. What does the author advice us to do once we have resisted the desire to reject another point of view?
4. In what case would the author advise you not to accept someone?
5. What do you think of the article? Do you think the author makes any good points?

Activity Seven – Intolerant Countries…

Discussion – In your opinion, which are the countries with the worst record for human rights? The least tolerant countries in the world?

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/12/10/human-rights-offenses-aro_n_794705.html#s203558&title=Egypt%20-%20%2346