

Synonyms for 'People'

IELTS

A. Decide the best context in which to use the following words that mean the same as 'people' or 'person'.

Society and politics

Philosophy

Informal

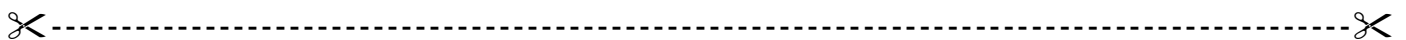
Proletariat	Individuals	Clients
Customers	Community	Being
Humankind	Person on the street	
Tribe	Persons	Man
The public	Populace	Specimen
Rank and file	Horde	Woman
Riff raff	Kin	Adult
Bourgeoisie	Capita	Masses
Mortals	Creature	Homosapien
Family	Guy	Rabble
Folk	Living soul	Gal

Business and economics

Biology

B. Decide if the words have a positive or a negative connotation.

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Activity Instructions

Language Focus:	Unspecific
Vocabulary Focus:	Synonym words for 'people'
Level:	IELTS (Intermediate-Advanced)
Skill:	Speaking
Time:	20 minutes
Organisation:	Students work in pairs
Stage:	Vocabulary speaking practice
Suggested Method:	

- 1 Copy one handout for each individual student.
- 2 Put students into pairs and distribute the handouts. First, students decide the context in which to use the words meaning 'person' or 'people' in the central grey box. If possible, get the students to justify their choices (for example 'the proletariat is normally used in social or political contexts and originates from Marxism').
- 3 Next, the students try to decide if the words have a generally positive, neutral or negative connotation in their use.
- 4 Monitor the students, providing language input or error correction when necessary.
- 5 Finally, elicit responses from the students into five columns or sections on the board, where you can write a small +/- when accepting answers on part B. Ensure students don't misconstrue that there are absolute right and wrong answers to all of the categories.