

EXERCISE 1

Most of us would agree that it is admirable to be loyal—we approve of loyalty to our family, loyalty to our friends, and loyalty to our country, in fact to all those individuals and groups to whom we have reason to be grateful. And when we speak of 'loyalty' here we mean a readiness to help them when they are in difficulty or danger, and a constant interest in their well-being at all times. It is often very clear when a person is being disloyal—when he lets his parents suffer without showing any concern, for example, or when he fights in an army against his own countrymen indiscriminately. For such people most of us would feel disapproval.

However, there often arise situations in which it is harder to decide if a person is being disloyal or not. A clever child may resist his parent's appeals to stop studying and begin work in order to help them financially. He may believe that he will be able to repay his parents more fully in the future if he continues his studies for a few years longer, whereas if he stops now, his talents will be wasted and never serve anybody. Unimaginative people may sometimes condemn a boy or a girl for making a decision like this; but often such a child, if he is conscientious and sensitive, may deserve help and encouragement—rather than criticism. On the other hand, in certain circumstances—if for instance, a boy's parents are in

great poverty—it might be disloyal for him to refuse to help them by going out to work; and even if later in life he is successful, he may always regret his disloyalty as a boy.

An even more difficult problem, sometimes, is that of a man's relationship with the government of his country. A group of people, sincerely loving their country, and anxious for its prosperity and happiness may revolt against the government; even perhaps using arms, because they believe that the government is a bad one for the country, and cannot be overthrown in any other way. They will immediately be called 'rebels' and 'traitors' by the government; and though the first word may be strictly correct, the second may not be so at all. For they may be more truly loyal to the interests of their fellow-countrymen than the government itself. Unfortunately it is often difficult to know whether a rebellion is inspired by loyalty to the country, or by selfish interests; until it has succeeded. The question then will be now that the rebels have been successful and have formed the new government, do they admit that the whole population of the country including their political enemies, have certain minimum rights to speak their opinions freely, and to try to win popular support. Or are they using their power to destroy their political enemies? If they do the former, we may know that they are truly loyal to their country and not merely concerned with the interests of their own groups. But if they do the latter, we may know that they are no more loyal to their country than the government they have overthrown. Only by then our knowledge will have come too late.

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Title: Loyalty - an admirable trait

A loyal person is ready to help others in dif hardships and has shows interest in their well being. For disloyal people most of us would feel disapproval. In some situations it is hard to decide if a person is disloyal or not. For some children go against the will of their parents to ~~study~~ or to go to work, un imaginative people may condemn the child for making a decision like this. But if the child's parents are are in great poverty, it is disloyalty of boy to resist his parents wishes to stop studying. After patriotic rebels have succeeded they may prove there loyalty by giving countrymen their rights or become disloyal by just taking revenge on political enemies.

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