

**Year 6 Lesson Three:**  
**Challenging Prejudice and**  
**Discrimination**

**Learning Objective**

To realise the nature and consequence of discrimination , teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including use of prejudice - based language, how to respond and ask for help).

## Recap: What are the protected characteristics? What does equality mean?

It means ensuring that every individual has an **equal opportunity** to make the most of their lives and talents. No one should have poorer life chances because of the way they were born, where they come from, what they believe in or whether they have a disability.

Reflect - Why might some of these groups need special treatment?

The Equality Act 2010 protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in the wider society. There are **9 characteristics** that are protected:

- Race
- Religion
- Sex
- Gender reassignment
- Age
- Disability
- Pregnancy/maternity
- Marriage/civil partnership
- Sexual orientation.

## PREJUDICE & DISCRIMINATION

Jessica loves playing online games. With her parent's permission, she recently took part in a national competition where she played under the gamer name, Python85. Jessica performed really well and made it through to the semi-finals. At the award ceremony, Jessica was able to meet the other competitors in person for the first time. "No way!" one of her rivals exclaimed in surprise. "Python85 is a girl! That can't be right, I bet someone helped her."

### Challenge

How do you think Jessica felt when she heard this?

### More Challenging

Why do you think the competitor was surprised that Jessica was female?

### Mega Challenging

Explain why the competitor's comments are wrong and hurtful.



## Activity Time

Around the room, you will find some pictures of people. Your task is to match the statements to the people.

**Task 1** **WHAT IS PREJUDICE?** *Match up*

Your teacher will give you a card with a 'thought' that belongs to one of the characters.

Read it carefully and think about which character it might belong to.

**Lily**

What am I thinking?

I often help my mom to cook at home.

I love chocolate!

I'd like to work with computers one day.

My mom says that I talk too much.	I love Caribbean food!	I'm amazing at maths and science.
I often help my mom to cook at home.	I'd really like to be a doctor one day.	I'd love to run my own nail salon in the future.
I love playing computer games!	I work very hard at school.	I'm very close to my family.
I'd love to be a basketball player one day.	I'm late for everything.	I'm a <u>really</u> fast runner.
I'd like to go to university in the future.	I'd love to be a ballet dancer one day.	My mom's curries are the best!
I'm a great writer.	I love chocolate!	I can be a bit <u>scatterbrained</u> sometimes!
I sometimes struggle with my <u>school work</u> .	I love shopping!	I guess I'm kind of bossy.
I feel <u>really</u> lazy today.	I always try my best at school.	I always get good grades in test and exams.
I'm very shy.	I'd like to work with computers one day.	My religion is very important to me.
I always mess around in class.	One day I'd like to get married and have children.	I love playing football.

Jagdeep Kai Pete Katie Halima Lily

**Task 1** **WHAT IS PREJUDICE?** *Match up*


When I say, "3,2,1, go!" get up out of your seat and add your card to the thought bubble of one of the characters. Then, make your way back to your seat.

**Lily**

I'd like to work with computers one day.

I often help my mom to cook at home.

I love chocolate!

The illustration shows a girl with blonde hair in a braid, wearing a purple shirt. Above her is a large orange thought bubble containing a text box that says "I'd like to work with computers one day." To her left are two more text boxes: "I often help my mom to cook at home." and "I love chocolate!". To her right is a circular portrait of a person with dark skin and curly hair.

## Share the matches

Why did you make the decisions you did?

Did you know that these are examples of **stereotypes**?

How can these be damaging?

**Task 1** **WHAT IS PREJUDICE?** *Review*

**We can't really read people's minds.**  
When you placed your cards you were forced to make a decision, or **judgement**. You all made a decision about a character even though you don't really know anything about them. Your choices were based on the only information that you had: the characters' names and what they look like.

~~I'm very shy.~~

~~I'm amazing at maths and science.~~

~~I'd like to work with computers one day.~~

Task 1

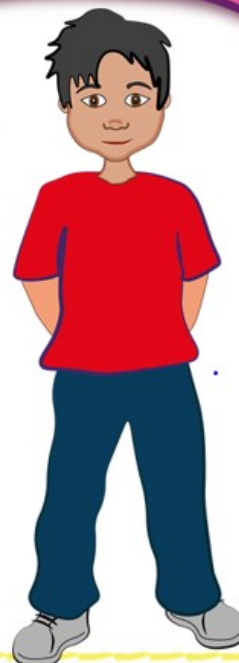
**WHAT IS PREJUDICE?**

Review

**We can't really read people's minds.**

This is what we mean by the term **prejudice**. If we are prejudiced, we make decisions or judgements about people before we know them.

Prejudice is a very bad thing as it often leads to people being treated badly. The judgements that people make are often based on incorrect ideas about certain groups of people e.g. boys are smarter than girls. We call these ideas **stereotypes**. We'll be learning more about them later on in the lesson.



## Let's learn more...

### What is prejudice?

Prejudice comes from two words: 'judge', which means to make a decision about what should be done, and 'pre', which means 'before'. So, prejudice means when you make a decision about someone before you actually know them.

Prejudice is not a good thing. If someone is prejudiced it means they have negative beliefs about certain groups of people. For example, have you ever heard an older person complaining about 'kids today'? Or a younger person complaining about 'boring grown-ups'? Both of these views could be seen as prejudiced! Not all kids today are naughty and not all grown-ups are boring. These are just negative beliefs that some people have. Of course, some kids can be naughty and some grown-ups can be boring, but that's not true all the time!

Sometimes prejudice is based on no real evidence at all. For example, some people are prejudiced against other people just because they look different, or because they speak differently.

### What is discrimination?

Discrimination is what happens because of prejudice. It means treating someone unfairly because you don't like something about them. Let's imagine a woman called Mary. Mary thinks that women are better than men. Mary has her own company that makes millions of pounds. She has to find people to work for her because her business is so big. So, Mary holds interviews for jobs in her company. Ten men and ten women apply for the jobs. The men and women are all as good as each other and they could all do the job very well. Mary gives all ten women a job and she doesn't give any men a job! She tells the men they were just unlucky but in her diary she writes:

"Dear diary, today I hired ten women to my company. I didn't hire any men even though they were very good at the job. That's because I just think women are better! I can't wait to have all lovely women in the office and no stinky men!"

Mary has shown **prejudice** by thinking all women are better than all men. She has shown **discrimination** by treating the men unfairly because of her negative beliefs.

Discrimination can take on many different forms. E.g. name-calling, bullying, not employing someone, making assumptions and generalisations.



## So, what types of discrimination are there?

### Here are some examples:

- **Sexism** - Treating someone badly on the basis of their sex (being male or female). It is more common for females to experience discrimination at work e.g. men are often paid more money to do the same job, even though it is illegal.
- **Racism** - People are disadvantaged or treated badly based on what they look like (on the basis of their skin colour).
- **Religious discrimination**- Treating someone badly because of their religion. Islamophobia and anti-Semitism are examples of people being discriminated against because of their particular religion.
- **Homophobia**- treating a gay person badly based on their sexuality (who they are attracted to).
- **Age discrimination** - Treating someone badly based on their age e.g. not employing an older person because of their age.
- **Disability discrimination**- Treating someone badly because of their disability e.g. not employing someone because they use a wheelchair.

**Note that these groups of people are also included in the protected characteristics.**



- What are your thoughts after watching this clip?
- How did his treatment make you feel?
- How does his hunger for making change make you feel?

## **Activity:**

Each group is going to have a look at an example scenarios which include a range of prejudice and discrimination.

Do you think they contain a particular type of discrimination?

Do you think these behaviours are okay?

Which do you think are most or least serious?

### **Scenario 1**

A child is told that his/her afro hair is too big and is asked to go home and restyle his/her hair for school. Discuss...

### **Scenario 2**

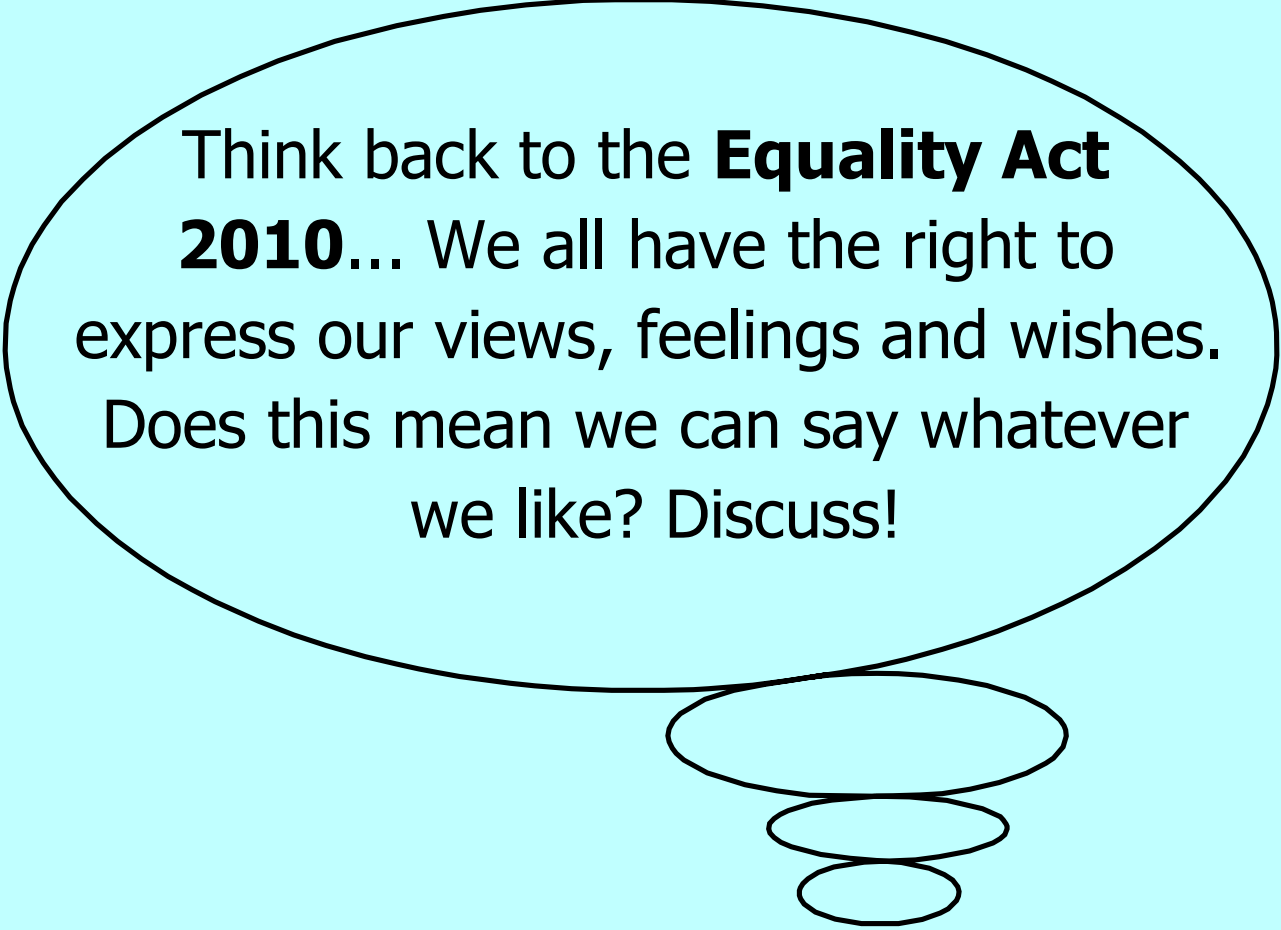
A child who wears a turban is asked to remove it during his P.E lesson. Discuss...

### **Scenario 3**

A guest house owner charges twice her normal rates for people under 21. Discuss...

### **Scenario 4**

A female local resident has applied to be a bin collector. Discuss...



Think back to the **Equality Act 2010**... We all have the right to express our views, feelings and wishes. Does this mean we can say whatever we like? Discuss!

**Reflection**

Remember that we **must** respect one another's opinions. Expressing an opinion, if it is offensive and harmful, can be *illegal* if it incites hatred.

Remember there is a difference between having a personal opinion or religious belief, and the law. We must all be respectful and **tolerant** of others. We are all different and that is what makes us all wonderful.

Learning about other people, other cultures and other lifestyles is what makes us compassionate and tolerant.

How do you seek support if you feel someone is being treated in a discriminatory way?