

## Lesson 3

# Beliefs

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All the words in this lesson may be associated with an individual's views and beliefs.

- adamant** ADJ. inflexible; unshakeable in belief or purpose (Mr. Tucker wanted everyone to come, but Paul was *adamant* about staying home.)
- agnostic** N. one who believes the existence of God cannot be proved but who does not deny such existence may be possible (An *agnostic* demands material evidence for belief in things unseen.)
- ascetic** N. one who renounces physical comforts for spiritual discipline (Mark lived the life of an *ascetic*, owning only the barest necessities.)
- atheist** N. one who does not believe that God exists (Voltaire, a well-known French *atheist*, wrote *Candide* in 1759.)
- avid** ADJ. enthusiastic or extremely eager (Being such an *avid* hockey fan, Gloria knew all the statistics about her hometown team.)
- blasphemy** N. an act of contempt for something sacred, or for God (Believers in any religion consider *blasphemy* among the very worst sins.)
- concept** N. a general idea or thought (Equal pay for equal work is a fundamentally democratic *concept*.)
- delusion** N. a false belief accepted as true despite evidence to the contrary (Doug suffers from the *delusion* that the earth is the center of the universe.)
- dogmatic** ADJ. marked by an authoritative stand on principles that cannot be sufficiently proved (Mary makes the *dogmatic* assertion that faith healing cured her.)
- exalt** V. to praise or glorify (The purpose of worship is to *exalt* a deity.)
- hallowed** ADJ. sacred; holy (The city of Jerusalem is considered *hallowed* ground by three major religions.)
- heresy** N. a belief contrary to established, usually religious, doctrine (Many women accused of being witches were burned for *heresy*.)
- mystical** ADJ. having meaning that is spiritual, not rational (Madame Blavatsky claimed to have *mystical* contacts in the spirit world.)
- orthodox** ADJ. adhering to established, especially religious, beliefs (There are three wings of Judaism: *orthodox*, conservative, and reform.)
- pacifist** N. one who opposes aggression or violence (Because Victor is a *pacifist*, he refused to fight in the Vietnam War.)
- resolute** ADJ. marked by firm determination (*Resolute* in her decision to continue the fight for civil rights, Rosa Parks inspired others to do the same.)
- rite** N. a ritual or ceremonial act (More than one ancient *rite* of spring involved human sacrifice.)
- supernatural** ADJ. concerning something existing beyond the natural world (Marcy claimed the apparition she saw was a *supernatural* being.)
- verity** N. a truth (Life after death is accepted as a *verity* by many religions.)
- zealous** ADJ. enthusiastically devoted to a cause or goal (Hugo is a *zealous* member of his church, attending services three times weekly.)