

Just – 2 (+ fair) ★★★

This week, we look at **fair** and **just** as ADJECTIVES (*just* is mainly an ADVERB: see last week)

1 **Fair** = just, morally right
Fair is a common word, much used

We often use *fair* without a noun



A fair deal for developing countries...

"That's not fair!"
a fair price
We need to be as fair as we can

2 **Just** = fair, morally right
Just (adj.) is a formal word, not much used.

(I looked in the BNC¹, and there are very few (less than 100) uses of *just* as an adjective, and very many (more than 100,000) uses of *just* as an adverb (see Grammar Bite 117)

We normally use *just* with a noun.



The court arrived at a just decision

He was a just man
He got his just reward
He felt just resentment at his poor treatment

¹BNC = British National Corpus, a collection of 100 million words of English, where you can find out how often (and how) a word is used.

Quick check

Decide whether *fair* or *just* is more appropriate in each sentence. Both are often possible, but remember that *just* is very formal, and *fair* is not:

- 1 The court made a _____ decision in the case of The Crown v. John Smith.
- 2 "You can't treat him like that. it's not _____!"
- 3 "If you charge a _____ price, you'll get more sales."
- 4 Lord Acton felt _____ resentment at being dismissed for no reason.
- 5 "Come on, be _____, give him another chance!"