

## “LIBERAL”

liberal (lib' ər əl, lib' rəl) *adj.*

1. favorable to progress or reform, as in religious or political affairs.
2. (*often cap.*) noting or pertaining to a political party advocating measures of progressive political reform.
3. of or pertaining to representational forms of government rather than aristocracies and monarchies.
4. of, pertaining to, based on, or advocating liberalism.
5. favorable to or in accord with concepts of maximum individual freedom possible, esp. as guaranteed by law and secured by governmental protection of civil liberties.
6. favoring or permitting freedom of action, esp. with respect to matters of personal belief or expression: *the government followed a liberal policy toward the country's artists and writers.*
7. free from prejudice or bigotry; tolerant: *a liberal attitude toward religion.*
8. open-minded or tolerant, esp. free of or not bound by traditional or conventional ideas, values, etc.
9. characterized by generosity and willingness to give in large amounts: *a liberal patron; a liberal donor.*
10. given freely or abundantly: *a liberal donation.*
11. not strict or rigorous; free, not literal: *a liberal interpretation of a rule.*
12. of, pertaining to, or befitting a freeman.
13. - *n.* a person of liberal principles or views, esp. in religion or politics.
14. (*often cap.*) A member of a liberal party in politics, esp. of the Liberal party in Great Britain.

[ME < L *liberal(is)* of freedom, befitting the free, equiv. to *liber* free + *-alis* - AL]

**-Syn** 1. progressive. 7. broad-minded, unprejudiced. 9. generous, beneficent, charitable, open-handed, munificent, unstinting, lavish. 10. see ample.

**-Ant** 1. reactionary. 7. intolerant. 9, 10. niggardly.

*The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, The Unabridged Edition* (Random House, New York, 1966)