

TRUTH. The issue with truth - as opposed to The Truth - is that it is relative; we all have a different understanding of it. Therefore it needs to be brought into the open, so we can understand, appreciate and accept someone else's truth.

To be truthful means two things: You must think, speak and act honestly, sincerely and genuinely. Importantly, though, you must accept that your truth may be challenged, when a case is made for a contrary, equally valid truth.

Remember: The truth about truth is, the opposite may be true too.

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| <p>1. truth (the consensus theory)
<i>true is whatever is agreed upon by a group</i></p> | <p><i>When considering the truth one ought to differentiate between truth, fact and reality. When truth is based on a belief or an idiosyncratic event (i.e. "it's the truth, I did see the ghost with my own eyes") for it to be recognised as fact, there needs to be definite proof.</i></p> |
| <p>2. truth (the practical theory)
<i>true is what is verified and confirmed by the result of putting one's concepts into practice</i></p> | <p><i>We must observe the distinction between objective and subjective truth. The former is scientific and constitutes the accurate understanding of reality. The latter is continuing and developing, like the personal experiences - including the ever-adjusting values - in an individual's life**.</i></p> |
| <p>3. truth (the relativistic theory)
<i>things are true or false, right or wrong, good or bad only from a certain perspective</i></p> | <p><i>Furthermore, it is often said that truth hurts. But we must learn that to be offended by someone else's truth is a shortcoming that results from our insecurities and delusions. Open-mindedness, inquisitiveness and courage enable us to deal with inconvenient truths.</i></p> |
| <p>4. truth (the constructivist theory)
<i>truth is constructed by social processes and is historically and culturally specific</i></p> | <p><i>fact</i></p> |
| <p>5. truth (the performative theory)
<i>truth is defined by a performance; i.e. a bride and groom's "I do" create a new truth</i></p> | <p><i>a fact is the actual existence of something, as opposed to the belief about something</i></p> |
| <p>6. truth (the authoritarian as well as gospel theory [also Orwellian*])
<i>true is whatever we, and/or the authorities, declare to be the truth</i></p> | <p><i>re·al·i·ty</i></p> |
| <p>7. truth (the pragmatic theory)
<i>true is what your peers let you get away with (preferred by lawyers and politicians)</i></p> | <p><i>the way things or occurrences actually are, rather than as they appear or are imagined</i></p> |
| <p>8. truth (the matter-of-fact theory)
<i>true is whatever works (favoured by artists)</i></p> | |

"Do not strive to seek the truth", writes a Zen master, "only cease to cherish opinions." from Aldous Huxley, The Perennial Philosophy, chapter 7: Truth; see also OPINIONS

**George Orwell (1903 - 1950) was the British writer of the novels Animal Farm and Nineteen Eighty-Four. In the latter he introduced the Ministry of Truth, which implements falsifications of historical events.*

*** Richard Dawkins refers to the 'fashionable postmodern doctrine' with no objective truth, instead truths that relate to 'social constructs' ... but scientific truths were true before humans existed and will be true after humanity is gone.*

Interestingly, there is one faith that is not burdened with adherence to the dogma of a Truth, the way most religions are: Jains subscribe to "not-one-sidedness"; in Jainism one claim or another or both may be true.

see also JAINISM, THE TRUTH 3 and in the appendix p. a100: What is Reality?

TRUTHINESS. Truthiness is a satirical term coined by the American comedian Stephen Colbert to describe things that a person claims to know intuitively or 'from the gut', without regard to evidence, logic, intellectual examination or facts. "It used to be everyone was entitled to their own opinion, not their own facts. That's no longer the case. Facts do not matter anymore. Perception is everything. I feel there is a dichotomy: What is important? What you want to be true, or what is true?" **A** most profuse proponent of truthiness is US president Trump.

see also FACTFULNESS