

SUFFIXES: -ful and -less

C1 | Vocabulary, gap fill and discussion

1 Vocabulary

-ful often means "having" or "full of"; -less often means "without".

resourceful

good at finding clever ways to solve problems

insightful

showing a deep understanding

tactful

careful not to upset or offend people

purposeful

having a clear aim

meaningless

having no purpose or importance

groundless

not based on facts

thoughtless

not considering other people's feelings

effortless

needing no effort or seeming very easy

2 Complete the sentences

Choose a word from the vocabulary box. Use each word once.

1. Her comments were _____ and helped the team understand the problem.
2. The rumour was _____ and should not have been shared.
3. He was _____ when he discussed the sensitive issue.
4. The volunteers were _____ and found a solution with very little money.
5. The manager made a _____ decision to improve staff training.
6. The online argument became _____ because nobody listened to the other side.
7. It was _____ to make jokes about someone's accent.
8. After years of practice, her performance looked _____.

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C1 | Discussion questions

1 Talk about the vocabulary

Discuss each question with a partner, then write short notes or your own answer.

Try to use at least one word ending in -ful or -less in every answer.

2 Conversation questions

1. What qualities make a person resourceful?

2. Why is tactful language important in difficult conversations?

3. How can we recognise a groundless claim?

4. What can make a discussion feel meaningless?

5. Can a skill ever become effortless, or does it only appear effortless?

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C1 | Teacher answer key

1 Suggested answers

Suggested answers for the gap-fill activity are shown below.

Discussion answers will vary. The target word is highlighted in bold.

2 Gap-fill answers

1. Her comments were **insightful** and helped the team understand the problem.

2. The rumour was **groundless** and should not have been shared.

3. He was **tactful** when he discussed the sensitive issue.

4. The volunteers were **resourceful** and found a solution with very little money.

5. The manager made a **purposeful** decision to improve staff training.

6. The online argument became **meaningless** because nobody listened to the other side.

7. It was **thoughtless** to make jokes about someone's accent.

8. After years of practice, her performance looked **effortless**.