

SUFFIX: -ness

B1 | Vocabulary, gap fill and discussion

1 Vocabulary

The suffix -ness changes many adjectives into nouns that name a quality or state.

kindness

the quality of being kind

happiness

the feeling of being happy

sadness

the feeling of being sad

illness

the state of being ill

weakness

a lack of strength

darkness

the state of having little or no light

cleanliness

the state of being clean

friendliness

the quality of being friendly

2 Complete the sentences

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

1. One _____ of this computer is its short battery life.

2. Regular exercise can improve your _____.

3. The staff's _____ made customers feel comfortable.

4. He felt great _____ when his pet died.

5. The restaurant is known for its _____.

6. Her _____ made the new student feel welcome.

7. We could not see the path because of the _____.

8. She stayed home from work because of an _____.

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B1 | 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 -ness in every answer.

2 Conversation questions

1. Why is kindness important in a classroom or workplace?

2. What small things can increase people's happiness?

3. Why is cleanliness important in public places?

4. How can friendliness make visitors feel welcome?

5. What is one weakness you would like to improve?

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B1 | 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. One **weakness** of this computer is its short battery life.

2. Regular exercise can improve your **happiness**.

3. The staff's **friendliness** made customers feel comfortable.

4. He felt great **sadness** when his pet died.

5. The restaurant is known for its **cleanliness**.

6. Her **kindness** made the new student feel welcome.

7. We could not see the path because of the **darkness**.

8. She stayed home from work because of an **illness**.