

Exploring values

What are values?

Things we believe are important in our lives

A guiding force to point us in the right direction

Often lie in our unconscious

A key motivator

Drive behaviour

Filters for deciding whether something is right or wrong

Give us a feeling of safety and security

Define/determine priorities

- Recognising our values helps us understand what drives us and what drives us affects our behaviour.
- Our values change over time, and deepen as we understand ourselves better – they are always moving.
- Our values can also be situational so what is true for us at home may not be true for us at work.
- The values list below offers some examples of possible values. It is not exhaustive and, as we are each unique, there will undoubtedly be words that are missing or words that better sum up your values.

Because values are often in our unconscious, we are not always aware of what our values are and they may come to the surface first when they are challenged Here are a few ways to begin to think about values in action.

Identify a time when you have been happy, thinking of times from work and home. What was happening? What were you doing? Were you with others? Who? What other factors contributed to your happiness?

Think of a time when you have felt proud in work and in your personal life. Why did you feel proud? Who else was there? What contributed to your feelings of pride?

When have you felt truly fulfilled? Again, think of times at work and in your personal life. What need or desire was fulfilled? How and why did the experience give meaning? What contributed to your feelings of fulfilment?



Sample values list: Select from the list all the values which resonate

Accomplishment Excellence Optimism

Accuracy Fairness Orderliness

Acknowledgement Flexibility Participation

Adventure Focus Partnership

Authenticity Forgiveness Passion

Balance Freedom Patience

Beauty Friendship Peace

Boldness Fun Presence

Calm Generosity Productivity

Challenge Gentleness Recognition

Collaboration Groundedness Respect

Community Growth Resourcefulness

Compassion Happiness Safety

Comradeship Harmony Self-Esteem

Confidence Health Service

Connectedness Helpfulness Simplicity

Contentment Honesty Spirituality

Contribution Honour Spontaneity

Cooperation Humour Strength

Courage Idealism Tact

Creativity Independence Tolerance

Curiosity Innovation Tradition

Determination Integrity Trust

Directness Intuition Understanding

Discovery Joy Unity

Ease Kindness Vitality

Effortlessness Learning Wisdom

Empowerment Listening Others:

Enthusiasm Love

Environment Loyalty



Select the words which speak for what you **most value** (between 5 and 10) and list these in order of importance, where 1 is most important, 2 for next in importance and so on. I find it helpful to write them down on sticky notes or slips of paper so I can move them around.

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

My value	Why it's important to me	How I'll know I'm living by it



Consider your primary values

•	Are there any patterns or themes?
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 What do your values tell you (and others) about yoursel 	•	What do	your values tell	you (and others)	about yourself
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 How do your values impact on your behaviour (at home and at work) - positives and negatives?

• How do your values impact the vision for your work?

• What choices will you make based on what you know?