

# Reasons to be cheerful? – Glossary

**anxious** adjective

worried because you think that something bad might happen

*His silence made me anxious.*

**assumption** noun [countable]

something that you think is likely to be true, although you cannot be certain

*Your argument is based on a completely false assumption.*

**beyond your (wildest) dreams** phrase

much better than you imagined or hoped

**doom and gloom** phrase

a feeling that a situation is very bad and without hope

**environmental** adjective

relating to the natural world and the effect that human activity has on it

*Both candidates discussed environmental issues.*

**freedom of speech** noun [uncountable]

the legal right to express your opinions without being prevented or punished

**generation** noun [countable]

all the people, a group of people, or the members of a family who are born and live around the same time

*People retiring today are wealthier than the previous generation.*

**global warming** noun [uncountable]

the increase in the temperature of the Earth that is caused partly by increasing amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

**grumble** verb

to complain about something that is unimportant

*Children always grumble about school lunches.*

**indefinitely** adverb

for a period of time that has no fixed end

*It will keep indefinitely in a sealed container.*

**long face** noun [countable]

a sad, disappointed, or serious expression on someone's face

*There were some long faces in the hall when the results were announced.*

**long-term** adjective

continuing to exist, be relevant, or have an effect for a long time in the future

*a good long-term investment*

**media, the** noun [plural]

radio, television, newspapers, the Internet, and magazines, considered as a group

*Both political parties have accused the media of bias.*

**natural resources** noun [plural]

useful substances such as coal and oil that exist in a country

**obsessed** adjective

unable to stop thinking about someone or something all the time

**privileged** adjective

having advantages and opportunities that other people do not have

*Cynthia had a very privileged upbringing.*

**quality of life** noun [uncountable]

the enjoyment of life at a basic level, which includes being happy and healthy, rather than having lots of money

**scandal** noun [countable/uncountable]

a situation in which people behave in a dishonest or immoral way that shocks people

**short-term** adjective

lasting for a short period of time

**trend** noun [countable]

a gradual change or development that produces a particular result

**wealth** noun [uncountable]

a large amount of money and other valuable things

*They used some of their wealth to build magnificent buildings.*

**worrying** adjective

making you feel worried

*The most worrying trend is the sharp decline in young readers.*