

## Oxford English Dictionary (OED)

### **ambiguous** (noun: ambiguity)

1. doubtful, questionable; indistinct, obscure, not clearly defined
2. admitting more than one interpretation, or explanation; of double meaning, or of several possible meanings; equivocal (the commonest use.)
3. of doubtful position or classification, as partaking of two characters or being on the boundary line between
4. of things: wavering or uncertain in direction or tendency; of doubtful or uncertain issue
5. hence, insecure in its indications; not to be relied upon
6. of persons, oracles, etc.: using words of doubtful or double meaning

### **ambivalent** (noun: ambivalence)

1. having either or both of two contrary or parallel values, qualities or meanings
2. entertaining contradictory emotions (as love and hatred) towards the same person or thing
3. acting on or arguing for sometimes one and sometimes the other of two opposites; equivocal

### **equivocal** (noun: equivocation; verb: equivocate)

1. of words, phrases, etc.: having different significations equally appropriate or plausible; capable of double interpretation; ambiguous
2. of evidence, manifestations, etc.: of uncertain bearing or significance
3. of persons, callings, tendencies, etc.: doubtful in character or reputation; liable to unfavourable comment or description; questionable; suspicious