

Read the text and answer the following questions.

The English language is full of words which have changed their meanings slightly or even dramatically over the centuries. Changes of meaning can be of a number of different types. Some words, such as *nice*, have changed gradually. Emotive words tend to change more rapidly by losing some of their force, so that *awful*, which originally meant ‘inspiring awe’, now means ‘very bad’ or, in expressions such as *awfully good*, simply something like ‘very’. In any case, all connection with ‘awe’ has been lost.

Some changes of meaning, though, seem to attract more attention than others. (1)This is perhaps particularly the case where the people who worry about such things believe that a distinction is being lost. For example, there is a lot of concern at the moment about the words *uninterested* and *disinterested*. In modern English, the positive form *interested* has two different meanings. The first and older meaning is approximately ‘having a personal involvement in’, as in

*He is an interested party in the dispute.*

The second and later, but now much more common, meaning is ‘demonstrating or experiencing curiosity in, enthusiasm for, concern for,’ as in

*He is very interested in cricket.*

It is [ X ]. (2)Confusion never seems to occur, largely because the context will normally make it obvious which meaning is intended. In all human languages there are very many words which have more than one meaning — this is a very common and entirely normal state of affairs. Most English speakers, for example, can instantly think of a number of different meanings for the words *common* and *state* and *affairs* which I have just used.

Perhaps surprisingly, according to dictionaries the two different meanings of *interested* have different negative forms. The negative of the first meaning is *disinterested*, as in

*He is an interested party in the dispute, and I am disinterested and therefore able to be more objective about it.*

*Disinterested* is thus roughly equivalent to ‘neutral, impartial’. The negative form of the second, more usual meaning is *uninterested*, as in

*He is very interested in cricket, but I am uninterested in all sports.*

*Uninterested* is thus roughly equivalent to ‘bored, feeling no curiosity’.

Now it happens that *interested*, in its original meaning, is today a rather unusual, learned, formal word in English. Most people, if they wanted to convey this concept in normal everyday speech, would probably say something like *not neutral*, or *biased* or *involved* or *concerned*. Recently, this unfamiliarity with the older meaning of the word ( A ) has led to many people now using ( B ) with the same meaning as ( C ):

*I am disinterested in cricket.*

They have, perhaps, heard the word ( D ) and, not being aware of the meaning 'neutral, unbiased', they have started using it as the negative form of ( E ) in the more recent sense. Opponents of this change claim that this is an ignorant misuse of the word, and that a very useful distinction is being lost. What can we say about this?

1. Translate the underlined sentences marked (1) and (2) into Japanese.
2. Re-arrange the following words to fit in the blank [ X ].  
[ a / has / meaning / more / not / one / problem / than / that / this / word ]
3. Fill in the blanks ( A ) to ( E ) with the most suitable word below. Write the letters ① to ③ that correspond to your answer. Each word can be used more than once.  
① interested    ② uninterested    ③ disinterested
4. Which of the following statements match the content of the text? Select two most suitable statements from ① to ⑥.  
① It is not appropriate to use the phrase "awfully good" when you praise someone for his/her achievement because it is too emotional an expression.  
② The original, positive meaning of *interested* has fallen out of use these days, so the author recommends us to replace *disinterested* with *uninterested* whenever it is possible to do so.  
③ Some people say "I am disinterested in cricket", meaning they are not interested in cricket.  
④ The word "uninterested" has two meanings because words with two meanings are a common and normal state of affairs.  
⑤ When you are having a personal involvement in a dispute, you are not a disinterested party in it.  
⑥ According to the text, it is safe to say that the distinction between the two negative forms of *interested* has been totally lost today.