



**Video 4 – Real Vocabulary: *uninterested* v.s. *disinterested***

Hi there! Have you ever wondered what the difference is between *uninterested* and *disinterested*? Or are they just the same?

Let's have a look at these two sentences:

"Most young people seem *uninterested* in politics."

"Most young people seem *disinterested* in politics."

These sentences convey the same meaning, but are they both acceptable? Traditionalists dislike this use of *disinterested* as a synonym of *uninterested*. Their objection is based on the fact that *disinterested* has another quite different meaning, when it is used to describe someone who is impartial and not influenced by the possibility of personal advantage: for example, you would hope that the members of a jury are *disinterested*, and you'd expect a financial advisor to give *disinterested* advice.

But that's not a good argument for banning the other meaning of *disinterested*. Most common words have more than one meaning, and in normal communication this doesn't cause any problems because the context usually tells you which of a word's meaning fits the sentence. In this case, the meaning is perfectly clear and there is no risk of misunderstanding.

So our conclusion is that *both* sentences are acceptable. However, our data shows that when people want to express this idea, it's more common to say *uninterested* (or *not really interested*), so that's the more natural choice.

In my next video I will talk about the word 'grow'. Can you *grow* a company?

Thanks for watching!