

“Objective vs. Subjective”

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“Objective vs. Subjective” is, for most, the alternate means of measurement.

Examples:

1. Traveling 60 mph on the highway with a posted 65 mph speed limit is ‘objectively’ not a violation of the law. However, under wet or icy or poor visibility conditions, it may be ‘subjectively’ deemed by law enforcement as ‘unsafe’ thus constituting an offence entirely worthy of a traffic citation.
2. An employee assigned the task of producing 100 widgets daily who averages 110 widgets is ‘objectively’ viewed as one who regularly exceeds his production quota. However, if he routinely does so while under the influence of mind-altering drugs thus risking the damage or destruction of expensive plant equipment, he may be ‘subjectively’ viewed as an underperforming employee.
3. The politician who carefully chooses his words can often claim correctly that he spoke ‘objectively’ and ‘subjectively’ on the subject. However, in voting on numerous legislative measures, he will reveal his true leanings.
4. In corporate life, ‘line management’ positions tend to have regular assigned duties that more often lend themselves to ‘objective’ measurement. Conversely, ‘staff management’ positions involve regular assigned duties more often measured ‘subjectively’.

When discussing whether something is ‘right’ or ‘wrong’, ‘ethical or unethical’, ‘good’ or ‘bad’, ‘desirable’ or ‘undesirable’, those who tend to measure things ‘objectively’ may quickly see the subject matter as ‘black or white’ while those who more often view things ‘subjectively’ will see shades of ‘grey’.

Where ‘objective’ measurement is possible, it is usually quite accurate. When things must be measured ‘subjectively’, the possibility for a wide margin of error exists.