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# Vocabulary trainer

Use our Key Words list to learn vocabulary from the current *Business Spotlight*.

NOUNS	<b>affluence</b>	the state of being wealthy	Wohlstand
	<b>blowhard</b> US <i>ifml.</i>	a person who likes to talk about how great they are	Angeber(in), Wichtiguer(in)
	<b>constituency</b>	a district that elects its own political representative	Wahlkreis
	<b>meritocracy</b>	a social system in which people gain power or money on the basis of their performance	Leistungsgesellschaft
	<b>produce</b>	food that is grown or obtained through farming	landwirtschaftliche(s) Produkt(e)
VERBS	<b>confer sth. (on sb.)</b>	to give something (to somebody), for example an award	etw. verleihen
	<b>exacerbate sth.</b>	to make something (even) worse	etw. verschlimmern
	<b>major in sth.</b> US	to study something at a university as a main subject	etw. im Hauptfach studieren
	<b>monetize sth.</b>	to turn something into money	etw. zu Geld machen
	<b>weed sb. out</b>	to remove someone from a group because they are not as good as the others	jmdn. aussortieren
ADJECTIVES	<b>boastful</b>	talking about oneself very proudly	angeberisch
	<b>complacent</b>	too satisfied with oneself or with a situation	selbstgefällig
	<b>disingenuous</b>	not sincere	unaufrichtig
	<b>nerve-racking</b>	causing a lot of worry and stress	nervenaufreibend
	<b>stale</b>	old, worn out or no longer fresh	alt, verbraucht
EXPRESSIONS	<b>be blown away</b> <i>ifml.</i>	to be extremely impressed and/or excited by something	hin und weg sein, begeistert sein
	<b>be conflicted</b>	to be torn between two things	hin- und hergerissen sein, sich in einem Zwiespalt befinden
	<b>create a level playing field</b>	to make sure that the conditions are the same for everyone	gleiche Voraussetzungen schaffen
	<b>put sth. on hold</b>	to put something aside to deal with it later	etw. auf Eis legen
	<b>walk the talk</b> US <i>ifml.</i>	to do what you say or promise	seinen Worten Taten folgen lassen

## KEN'S CORNER

## Meritocracy

## MEDIUM

A “meritocracy” is a social system based on talent and hard work rather than on wealth or social class. The concept has existed since the time of the Chinese philosopher Confucius (551–479 BC), but the term was coined by British sociologist Michael Dunlop Young in his 1958 book, *The Rise of the Meritocracy*. Young describes a future dystopian society in which intelligence and merit have replaced class divisions. In this, meritocracy is a negative concept: an educated elite holds power over a powerless underclass.

In recent times, it has taken on a more positive meaning: a society in which everyone has the chance to advance. Young, however, complained in 2001 that the term was being used by the elites to justify their status, power and high salaries.

The term “meritocracy” combines the Latin root *mereō* (“merit”) and the Greek suffix *kratos* (“power”, “rule”). Similarly, “democracy” means “the rule of the common people” (*demos*), “aristocracy” means “the rule of the best” (*aristos*) and “theocracy” means “the rule of God” (*theos*).



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**coin sth.** ➔ etw. prägen

**dystopian** [dis'təʊpiən]  
➔ dystopisch

**elite** [i'li:t]  
➔ [wg. Aussprache]

**merit**  
➔ Leistung, Verdienst