

ROOT: "Facetus" (adjective)

Facetious stems from the 16th century French word *facétieux*, which evolved from the 15th century French term *facétie* meaning "a joke". This word comes from the Latin *facetiae* meaning "jests, witticisms", from Latin *facetus* meaning "witty, elegant, fine, courteous". So, facetious now means to treat a serious issue with deliberately inappropriate humour.

Type of word: adjective
3 syllables: fa-see-shous

SYNONYMS:

- Flippant
- Joking
- Jestig
- Teasing
- Whimsical
- Waggish
- Comical
- Humorous
- Wry
- Witty

ANTONYMS:

- Serious
- Formal
- Grave
- Earnest
- Sincere
- Solemn
- Sombre
- Pensive
- Melancholy

FACETIOUS

They kept interrupting our discussion with **facetious** remarks.

EXAMPLES:

The newspaper ended on a slightly **facetious** note: Can anybody commit a forgery against themselves?

QUOTES:

"I don't want to sound facetious, but humour is the key to the soul. You know what I mean?"
Martin Lawrence

"You must not think me necessarily foolish because I am facetious, nor will I consider you necessarily wise because you are grave"
Sydney Smith

HOW I REMEMBER THE WORD

"FACETIOUS"
is the only word in
the english language
that uses all of the
vowels, in order.

WHEN YOU ARE ASKED TO USE FACETIOUS:

- ARE YOU IN A FORMAL ENVIRONMENT?
- HAS SOMEONE MADE AN INAPPROPRIATE OR CHEEKY REMARK/JOKE WHICH DOESN'T SEEM SERIOUS?
- This person is being **facetious**. Essentially, to be **facetious** means that someone is joking in a way that is inappropriate for their setting.