

English Vocabulary – Safety vs Security

The words 'safe' and 'secure' both translate to 'seguro' in Portuguese. Similarly, 'safety' and 'security' translate to 'segurança'. However, these words are used in different situations.

1) safe (adjective) / safety (noun/adjective) / safely (adverb)

These words are used when we think about the protection of **people**. They are about minimizing **danger to people**. Here are some examples:

- Don't worry, we are **safe** here.
- It is not **safe** to use the elevator when there is a fire.
- It is not **safe** to drive too fast.
- Walking on thin ice is not a **safe** thing to do.
- Car manufacturers are obliged to make their cars **safe**.

- When climbing a mountain, it is recommended to use **safety** equipment.
- It is important to think about **safety** when you are driving.
- The **safety** of the driver and of the passengers is extremely important.

- Please drive **safely**!
- He walked **safely** across the road.



The following situations consider **safety**:

- We must use seatbelts in a car.
- We should drive within the speed limits.
- Aircraft should undergo regular maintenance to reduce the risk of accidents.
- Children shouldn't cross the road without supervision.

2) secure (adjective) / security (noun/adjective) / securely (adverb)

These words are used when we think about the protection of **things** or **places**. They are about minimizing **risk to objects or places**. Here are some examples:

- Prisons must be **secure**.
- Banks are very **secure** places.
- Your house should be **secure**. Install alarms and cameras.
- Not all e-mail software programs are **secure**.

- Bank vaults require a **security** code to enter.
- The police monitor airports for **security** reasons.
- Banks and stores often employ **security** guards.
- If you live in a house, you should think about **security**.
- US air companies employ air marshals as a **security** measure.
- Most establishments use **security** cameras.

- Fasten your seatbelt **securely**.
- Your house should be **securely** protected.



Sometimes we can use both ideas together. For example:

- **Secure** your car to keep the people **safe**.
- Cars have **safety** equipment to prevent injury and **security** systems to prevent theft.
- You must fasten your seat belt **securely** for your **safety**.
- If your house is **secure**, your family is **safe**.

Exercise 1. Complete the sentences below with 'safe', 'safety', 'safely', 'secure', 'security' or 'securely':

1. *Wife:* I feel very _____ in your arms !

2. I trust the bank to conduct _____ transactions.

3. Please carry my baby _____ !

4. All airports carry out _____ checks on all passengers.

5. *Bungee jump instructor:*

"You don't need to worry. We have all the necessary _____ equipment."

6. Please fasten your seatbelt _____ before we take off. This is for your _____.

Notes

1. The noun "*seguro*" can also translate to "*insurance*", which is a financial contract for accidental damage, injury or death. For example:

- Car insurance
- House insurance
- Health insurance
- Dental insurance
- Life insurance
- Pet insurance

2. The words '*secure*' and '*security*' can also be used for jobs and relationships, meaning that they are 'solid' and are expected to endure for a long time.

Exercise 2. Do these images represent “safety” or “security” or both?



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



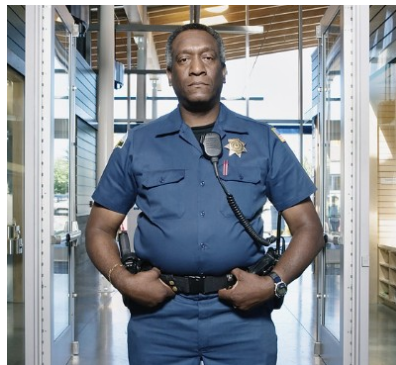
5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____