

## One Mean Exercise

“What is that supposed to mean?”

“I’m not mean at all. I’m a rather kind person, actually.”

“I’m sorry, I didn’t mean to hurt your feelings. And yes, I know that you are quite generous with your time and good advice, but you *are* mean with money. I mean, seriously, what’s twenty Euros to you?”

He was one mean lawyer. High-profile clients waited in line to hire him. He drove no fancy car, wore no smart suits, and he lived in the mean part of town.

“It’s not that I’m not willing to share. I’d gladly offer you all I have on me, but that would mean to be really mean.”

“How’s that?”

He reached in his pocket and when his hand reappeared, he said, “because that’s all I have left.”

I looked down at a shiny twenty-cent coin in his open palm, confused.

“What’s that mean?”

“I meant to win the lottery, but came out at the mean end of luck. All my tickets were duds.”

I wanted to scold him for gambling away all his money, but that would have meant to be mean to him. He had meant no harm. Yet he really has to find a mean between smart talk and silly moves, and I mean it.

Try to understand the different meanings of the underlined word and think about how it is used in each sentence.

This might help, if need be: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/mean>