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## **Insecure**

An improperly anchored boat and a person waiting to find out if they got the big promotion may share a common adjective. The boat not being fastened to a dock or anchored makes it insecure. The person may not be feeling secure. Also, if the promotion is one that has fast turnover, it may not be a secure job. Insecure is a pretty straightforward word in its meaning. What it describes can have an interesting range.

The Oxford Dictionary defines “insecure” as an adjective meaning “Not firm or fixed; liable to give way or break” ( English Oxford Living Dictionaries, n.d.). It breaks it down further into physical, situational, and personal unrest. It can be traced back to Latin in the 17th century in the form *insecurus* meaning “unsafe”. By 1917 it was adopted by the school of Psychology to describe an emotional state of being. Historically it is used to describe the feeling of anxiety that comes with losing something (Online Etymology Dictionary, n.d.). Whether it is something tangible or a feeling is entirely dependent upon the person.

According to the article of C. N. Trueman “Securing the Throne,” Henry VII was a notoriously insecure ruler. He fought hard to become the ruler of England and was constantly in fear of losing the throne. He spent a lot of money on clothes to display confidence that was never there. For all of the efforts Henry VII put forth to secure his throne, it was in his mind that it would never truly be his forever. The physical throne and even the kingship was his, but in his mind, it would only take a word from a usurper to lose it all. He felt insecure in his mind because the situation had been volatile for most of his life. All three potential uses in one monarch’s tale (Trueman).

From the point of view of the youngest child in a divorced family, things constantly seemed volatile. From bouncing back and forth every other weekend to my father’s second failed marriage and quick remarriage, to the fact that my mom and stepdad had jobs that required us to move a lot I never felt secure. I would get past the awkward shyness that comes from being the new kid only to be uprooted. We settled in a place where I would have gone to school from eighth grade to

graduation, but midway through my junior year, I was sent three states over to live with my father. He had recently moved there and with no lasting friendship or childhood home, I never felt like it would be wise to put down my own roots. I have lived a lifetime of uncertainty and insecurity. Something that I do not want for my son.

In the United States today, there is a lot of insecurity. This is a concept many Americans can relate to due to the nations politics and the politics of foreign countries. Body shaming, mom shaming, and even health conditions can lead to feelings of insecurity for a person. The #metoo and #timesup movements have also put a spin on the entertainment industry that is bleeding into everything else. In today's world climate, it would seem, there is no more appropriate word to describe one's sense of belonging.

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