

Diverse v. cosmopolitan

**Being diverse is not
the same as being cosmopolitan.**

**One is a material fact: this many ethnicities
in a place, this many languages spoken,
this many religions professed.**

The other is — what? — a mental state.

**Defining it is hard but here is my best shot:
knowing about the world, and not much caring.**

It is a sort of informed indifference.

Some people fall down on the first point.

**However well they mean,
their experience is narrow.**

Others flunk the second test.

**Their focus on ethnic or other group identities
can be draining and even dehumanising
to be around.**

Janan Ganesh, Financial Times, July 7, 2023