Types of deviance:

In starting to look more closely at the concept of deviance, it tends to be assumed that "deviant behavior" is somehow always behavior that is generally frowned upon by people in a society (the very name seems to imply that such behavior is, at best, "not very nice" and, at worst, downright criminal). That this is not necessarily the case can be shown by looking briefly at the way in which we can categorize various basic forms of rule-breaking behavior in terms of three basic ideas:

Admired deviance:

An example of deviance that might be considered as "good" or "admirable" behavior (whilst also breaking social norms) might be something like heroism - the saving of the life of another person whilst putting your own life in great danger, for example

Odd behavior :

Many forms of behavior - whilst not being criminal - are frequently considered to be somehow "odd" or "different" to normal behavior. These forms of deviance range from such things as outlandish modes of dress, through mildly eccentric forms of behavior (the person who shares their house with 50 cats, for example), to outright madness.

Bad behavior:

Deviant behavior in this category tends to be restricted to law-breaking or criminal behavior - behavior that in some way is seen as being something more than simply outlandish or eccentric. Depending upon the time and place, forms of behavior in this category might include crimes of violence, crimes against property and so forth.