

English

▼ English



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hit

From Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

hit¹ /hɪt/ ●●● **S1** **W2** **verb** (*past tense and past participle* **hit**, *present participle* **hitting**) 🔊 🔊

1 TOUCH SOMEBODY/SOMETHING HARD

[transitive] to touch someone or something quickly and hard with your hand, a stick etc

🔊 He raised the hammer and hit the bell.

hit somebody/something with something

🔊 The robbers hit him over the head with a baseball bat.

2 CRASH INTO SOMETHING **[transitive]** to move into something or someone quickly and with force

🔊 The tanks exploded as the plane hit the ground.

🔊 He was hit by a car.

3 HURT YOURSELF **[transitive]** to move a part of your body quickly against something accidentally, causing pain **SYN** bang

🔊 The ceiling's low, so be careful you don't hit your head.

hit something on/against something

🔊 She slipped and hit her head on the sidewalk.



Quizzes



More results

hit back

hit on somebody/something

hit out

hit out at somebody/something

hit somebody up for something

hit somebody with something

hit a (brick) wall

[See all results](#)

4 SPORT [transitive]

a) if you hit a ball or other object, you make it move forward quickly by hitting it with a bat, stick etc **SYN strike**

🔊 **Hit** the ball as **hard** as you can.

b) to get points by hitting a ball in a game such as baseball or cricket

🔊 Last year, Griffey hit 49 home runs.

5 PRESS [transitive] informal to press a part in a machine, car, etc to make it work

🔊 Maria hit the brakes just in time.

6 ATTACK [transitive] to attack something or wound someone with a bomb, bullet etc

🔊 Our ship was **badly hit** and sank within minutes.

🔊 A second shot hit her in the back.

🔊 The bomb failed to **hit** its **target**.

7 AFFECT BADLY [intransitive, transitive] if something bad hits a place or a person, it suddenly happens and affects people badly

🔊 The village has been hit by a devastating drought.

🔊 Hurricane Louis is expected to hit at the weekend.

be badly/severely/hard hit

Pictures of the day

What are these?



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Word of the day

expenditure

the total amount of money that a government, organization, or person spends during a particular period of time

Verb table hit

Simple Form

Present

I, you, we, they

he, she, it

hit

hits

> View More

🔊 The company has been hard hit by the drop in consumer confidence.

🔊 The south of the country is **the worst hit** by the recession.

8 HAVE PROBLEMS [**transitive**] to experience trouble, problems etc

hit a snag/problems/a bad patch etc

🔊 My father hit a bad patch, and had to sell the house.

9 REACH A LEVEL/NUMBER [**transitive**] to reach a particular level or number

🔊 Sales have **hit the** 1 million **mark**.

hit a peak/an all-time high etc

🔊 Earnings hit a peak in the early 1980s.

hit rock-bottom/an all-time low etc

🔊 Oil prices have hit rock-bottom.

Continuous Form

Present

I	am hitting
he, she, it	is hitting

[> View More](#)

10 REALIZE [**transitive**] if a fact hits you, you suddenly realize its importance and feel surprised or shocked

🔊 It's impossible to pinpoint a moment when **it hit me that** I was 'a success'.

🔊 He was gone before they **knew what** had **hit** them (=realized what had happened).

11 **SMELL/SIGHT ETC** [**transitive**] if a smell or sight

hits you, you suddenly smell or see it

🔊 The smell of stale smoke hit him as he entered.

12 **ARRIVE** [**transitive**] *informal* to arrive at a place

🔊 They hit the main road two kilometres further on.

hit town *American English*

🔊 I'll look for work as soon as I hit town.

13 → **hit the road/trail**

14 → **hit the shops/streets**

15 → **hit the headlines**

16 → **hit the bottle**

17 → **hit the dirt/the deck**

18 → **hit a (brick) wall**

19 → **hit the buffers/skids**

20 → **hit somebody when they are down**

21 → **hit somebody where it hurts**

22 → **hit it off (with somebody)**

23 → **hit the big time**

24 → hit the ground running

25 → hit the jackpot

26 → hit the nail on the head

27 → hit home

28 → hit the spot

29 → hit the roof/ceiling

30 → hit the sack

→ **the shit hits the fan**, → **hit/strike paydirt**

THESAURUS

TO HIT SOMEONE

hit to hit someone quickly and hard with your hand, a stick etc

He hit him hard in the stomach.

I don't like to see people hitting a dog.

beat to hit someone deliberately many times, especially very hard

The girl had been beaten to death.

He was beating the donkey with a stick.

strike *written* to hit someone with your hand or a weapon. **Strike** is more formal than **hit** and is mainly used in written English

Her husband struck her twice across the face.

Police say that the man had been struck on the head.

punch to hit someone hard with your closed hand, especially in a fight

I punched him on the nose.

She was screaming and punching him with her fists.

thump /θʌmp/ *informal* to punch someone very hard

Sometimes I just want to thump him.

beat somebody up to hurt someone badly in a violent attack, by hitting them many times

If I tell the police, they'll beat me up.

He had been beaten up and tortured with lighted cigarettes.

slap to hit someone with your open hand, especially because you are angry with them

They had a big row and she ended up slapping him.

spank (*also smack especially British English*) to hit someone, especially a child, with your open hand in order to punish them

Should a parent ever smack a child?

I don't agree with smacking.

In those days, children were spanked if they behaved badly.

TO HIT SOMETHING

hit

Jack hit the ball and it flew over the fence.

knock to hit a door or window with your closed hand in order to attract the attention of the people inside

Someone was knocking on the door.

I knocked loudly but no one came.

strike *written* to hit a surface. **Strike** is more formal than **hit** and is mainly used in written English

The ball struck the side of the goal.

whack /wæk/ *informal* to hit something very hard

Edmonds whacked the ball into the air.

bash to hit something hard, especially in a way that causes damage

The police had to bash the door down to get in.

tap to gently hit something with your fingers, often in order to attract someone's attention

I tapped him on the shoulder.

I heard someone tapping on the window.

rap to knock quickly or hit something several times

He rapped the table with his pen to bring the meeting to order.

Two police officers rapped on the door at 7 o'clock in the morning.

bang to suddenly hit something hard, in a way that makes a loud noise

Her father banged his fist down on the table angrily.

The door suddenly banged shut.

pound *written* to hit something many times with a lot of force

I could hear the sea pounding on the rocks.

She pounded on the door and shouted wildly.

hammer *written* to hit something quickly many times making a loud continuous noise

The rain was hammering on the roof.

A crowd of people were outside hammering on the door angrily.

TO HIT SOMETHING ACCIDENTALLY

hit

I've got a bad bruise where I hit my leg against the table.

The car hit a tree.

bump to hit a part of your body against something, especially because you do not see or notice it

Careful you don't bump your head – the ceiling's very low.

bang/bash to hit something hard, so that you hurt yourself or damage something

He banged into the car in front.

I bashed my knee climbing over a gate.

She fell and bashed her chin on the ground.

stub to hit your toe against something and hurt it

I stubbed my toe on the piano leg.

→ **hit back**

→ **hit on** somebody/something

→ **hit out**

→ **hit out at** somebody/something

→ **hit** somebody **up for** something

→ **hit** somebody **with** something

→ See **Verb table**

Examples from the Corpus

hit

- In 1852 he again played well, **hitting** 24 and 40 not out and 60 against Dalton.
- He ran out into the road and almost got **hit**.
- This is somewhat like making the target broader so that it becomes easier to **hit**.
- I had **hit** a few snags in my work.
- He **hit** a few three-irons and three-woods and that was it.
- As oil production increased, prices **hit** an all-time low.

- He pulled out of the driveway without looking, and almost **hit** another car.
- Elderly people were the hardest **hit** by the increase in tax on fuel.
- He **hit** him hard in the stomach.
- Don't **hit** him, he'll only hit you back.
- A sudden rise in inflation always **hits** living standards.
- Be careful with that stick! You nearly **hit** me with it.
- Dad! Peter keeps **hitting** me!
- I **hit** my elbow on the corner of that table.
- Yet only by luck did he **hit** one of the skaters - who was blasted apart.
- Analysts say that the value of the Euro could **hit** rock bottom in the next few months.
- Greg Davis didn't disappoint his teammates, **hitting** six field goals in six attempts.
- If sales continue to increase, output may **hit** the 500,000 mark this year.
- I have to **hit** the books.
- **Hit** the brakes!
- His face **hit** the concrete before any of the rest of him.
- When I **hit** the elephant grass, I just kept going.
- Courtney was a traditionalist, besides which Jack's career had finally begun to **hit** the fast track.
- It's time to **hit** the shower.
- Careful, don't **hit** your head.

Hit ... hard

- I sat down again longing to **hit something hard**.
- The chain-link fence swerved in, and this time I **hit the brakes hard**.
- Background: The New York area was **hit hard** by the recession, but pent-up demand is pushing up prices.
- The bulb had obviously been **hit hard** so as to break its filament, to ensure no warning light came on.
- Sometimes, the other players **hit him harder** than he hits them.
- Insurance companies have **hit their hardest** times yet.

badly hit

- Motorists passing through Tewkesbury have been **badly hit**.
- The refrigeration industry will be the most **badly hit**.
- The Tapies market was also **badly hit**.
- With stock and bond markets in the doldrums, their trading operations have been **badly hit**.
- Vodafone, which could also be **badly hit** by such a move, lost 10p to 504p.
- It should also drum up more work for a profession that has been **badly hit** by the recession.
- So does Huddersfield - another **badly hit** town.

be badly/severely/hard hit

- Among the industries affected, transport **was badly hit**.
- If a ban is approved, the famous Beaufort hunt will **be hard hit**.
- Luxury and performance car manufacturers **were hard hit**.
- Firms and institutions which are otherwise financially sound could **be hard hit** by a protracted run of debt defaults.
- Vodafone, which could also **be badly hit** by such a move, lost 10p to 504p.
- Campesinos **are hard hit** by the economic crisis and government forces have deliberately destroyed the livelihood of many subsistence farming families.
- Inflation-sensitive bank stocks **were hard hit** Friday.

- Countries not so reliant on oil because of lack of industrial development can **be hard hit** indirectly.

hit a snag/problems/a bad patch etc

- Sometimes I am a real power pack of efficiency; then I **hit a bad patch**.
- Talk about **hitting a bad patch**.
- Having **hit a bad patch**, financially, I decided I must try for some paid work with my knitting machine.
- The market for recycled material has recently **hit a bad patch** with falling prices.

hit the ... mark

- About half **hit the comic mark**.
- It took five years for revenue to **hit the £1 million mark**.
- Not every story **hits the mark**.
- Words don't always **hit the mark**, do they?
- The umpires green-flagged the crash but penalised Stripes for **hitting the mark**, effectively giving Kanza the race.
- Darren Biggs **hit the 50 mark** for the season with his win on Iommelli at Sandown yesterday.
- In any book of several hundred pages you're bound to **hit the mark** occasionally.
- If one of us **hits the half-century mark**, we all do.

it hit ... that

- If your goal is for a stock to gain 20 percent, sell when it hits that point.

hit town

- But there's little chance of that for Joanne Malkin when the swinging detective **hits town**.
- By the time the celebration rolled around, the media were reporting that 100,000 people were expected to **hit town**.
- So does Huddur - another badly **hit town**.
- Blockbuster movies **hit town** like tidal waves.
- Whenever she **hits town**, she enjoys picking with Rozum's fellow Summerdog alumnus Peter McLaughlin.
- When Francis **hit town** Tuesday for tonight's game with the Bulls, the bitterness was gone.

Related topics: [Drug culture](#), [Crime](#)

hit² ●●● **S3** **W3** **noun** [countable] 🔊 🔊

1 **SUCCESSFUL** something such as a film, play, song etc that is very popular and successful

a hit single/show/record etc

🔊 the hit musical 'The Phantom of the Opera'

a big/smash/number 1 etc hit

🔊 The Beatles' greatest hits.

🔊 Which band **had a hit** with 'Bohemian Rhapsody'?

be a hit with somebody (=be liked by them)

🔊 It's hoped the new museum will be a big hit with families.

2 **HIT SOMETHING** an occasion when something that is aimed at something else touches it, reaches it, or damages it

🔊 Our ship took a **direct hit** and sank.

3 **COMPUTER**

a) an occasion when someone visits a website

🔊 The site had 2,000 hits in the first week.

b) a result of a computer search, especially on the Internet

 thousands of irrelevant hits

4 → **take a hit**

5 *informal* a feeling of pleasure obtained from taking an illegal drug

6 *informal* a murder that has been arranged to happen

→ **hit man**

Examples from the Corpus

hit

- Our site had 2000 **hits** in the first month.
- The tuna tartare with chopped avocado, the clam chowder with smoked bacon and the giant Louisiana prawns were all a **hit**.
- But the decision seems to be a **hit** with the scouts.
- When I first heard the song I knew it would be a **hit**.
- It lasted longer and that, a better **hit**.
- "Titanic" was a big **hit** all over the world.
- This time Dennis claimed **hits** on a destroyer while Osborne inflicted damage on a supply ship.
- an album of the Beatles' greatest **hits**
- a new **hit** single from Janet Jackson
- The official World Cup web-site scored a record number of **hits** last week.
- You may get thousands of **hits** that are irrelevant to your question.
- Still, it was a shock when Vee-Jay filed for bankruptcy in 1965, while it was still turning out **hits**.
- They absorb these losses either by taking the **hit** themselves or by paying insurance premiums that are roughly equal to those losses.

a hit single/show/record etc

- Alan King founded Ace and actually had a **hit single** after all the years of struggle.

- Played loose and desperate by Marcus Naylor, Floyd has a **hit record** out, but he needs another.
- Tom says every singer wants to have a **hit record**.
- There are already plans to make the £26,000 jingle into a **hit single** and show the ad in cinemas.

direct hit

- It was in a dance hall, a **direct hit**.
- With a beautiful clean throw Trondur made a **direct hit**.
- I lay under my cot and prayed that our hooch would not take a **direct hit** with a rocket.
- The next one was a **direct hit**, and the whole ceiling did come down.
- A **direct hit** on the Al-Rasheed was ruled out because of the western journalists there.
- Both were **direct hits**, as he knew they would be.

From Longman Business Dictionary

hit¹ /hit/ **verb** (*past tense and past participle* **hit**, *present participle* **hitting**)

- 1 **[transitive]** to reach a particular level or number
Profits should hit \$23 million this year.

The company's shares hit a 52-week high of \$34 last Friday.

- 2 **[transitive]** to have a bad effect on something
Strikes hit several ports in Australia last month.

The industry has been **badly hit** by the rise in oil prices.

A number of computer retail chains have been **hit hard** by the recession.

- 3 **[intransitive]** when a RECESSION hits, it begins

A final blow to the company came when the recession hit in 1990.

- 4 **hit the market/shops/shelves** to become available for people to buy

This new generation of computers is expected to hit the market some time next year.

5 hit the jackpot to be very successful and make a lot of money

The company hit the jackpot with its New Kids range of clothing.

→ See [Verb table](#)

hit² **noun** [countable]

1 something that is extremely popular and successful

Their latest computer game has been **abig hit** with customers.

The group is currently on tour promoting its latest **hit single**.

2 take a hit *American English* if a person or organization takes a hit, they suffer from a problem

The construction industry took a serious hit as jobs declined by 37,000 during the first 10 months of the year.

3 take a hit *American English* if a company takes a hit in its financial results, it pays a CHARGE (=a cost related to a particular event, usually one that is not repeated in later periods of time)

The bank took a huge hit in charges to clean up the mess in its African subsidiaries.

4 an occasion when someone looks at a particular WEBSITE on the Internet

The Winter Olympics website had over 600 million hits in 16 days.

Origin **hit¹** (1000-1100) Old Norse hitta “to find, hit”



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