

bag¹

S1 W2

/bæg/

noun [countable]

1 **container** CONTAINER

a)

a container made of paper, cloth, or thin plastic, that usually opens at the top:

a paper bag

a plastic bag

a garbage bag

b)

a HANDBAG:

Don't leave your bag in the car.

c)

a large bag that you use to carry your clothes etc when you are travelling:

Just throw your bags in the back of the car.

a garment bag

2 **amount** AMOUNT the amount that a bag will hold:

bag of

a bag of popcorn

3 **WOMANINSULT** **old/stupid bag** (spoken)

an insulting word for an old woman:

You silly old bag!

4 **a lot of something** A LOT OF **bags of something** (especially BrE) (spoken)

LOT/LARGE NUMBER OR AMOUNT

a lot of something

SYN plenty

She's got bags of money.

No need to rush – we've got bags of time.

5 pack your bags (informal) LEAVE A PLACE

to leave a place where you have been living, usually after an argument:

We told her to pack her bags at once.

6 | eyes APPEARANCE **bags** [plural]

dark circles or loose skin under your eyes, usually because of old age or being tired

7 a bag of bones (informal) THIN PERSON

a person or animal who is too thin

8 in the bag (informal) CERTAINLY/DEFINITELY

certain to be won or achieved:

The governor's advisors believe the election is in the bag.

9 | trousers TROUSERS **bags** [plural] (BrE) (old-fashioned)

loose-fitting trousers:

Oxford bags

10 not somebody's bag (old-fashioned informal) INTERESTED

something that someone is not very interested in or not very good at:

Thanks, but dancing is not really my bag.

11 bag and baggage (BrE) OWN

with all your possessions:

They threw her out of the house, bag and baggage.

12 | hunting HUNTING [usually singular] (BrE) the number of birds or animals that someone kills when they go hunting:

We had a good bag that day.

→ SLEEPING BAG,
AIRBAG,
DUFFEL BAG,

TOTE BAG,
BEANBAG,
PUNCHBAG,
SANDBAG¹,
TEABAG,

→ **let the cat out of the bag** AT CAT (2) ,

→ **be left holding the bag** AT HOLD¹ (26) ,

→ **a mixed bag** AT MIXED (6)

COLLOCATIONSense 1 types

a plastic/ polythene/ paper bag *Store the beans in a paper bag in the fridge.*

a carrier bag (= for carrying shopping, usually made of plastic) *The supermarket no longer gives free carrier bags.*

a shopping bag *She loaded her shopping bags into the back of the car.*

a school bag *Hey, don't forget your school bag!*

a sports bag *I noticed that the man was wearing trainers and carrying a sports bag.*

a shoulder bag (= one that is carried over your shoulder) *Big shoulder bags are fashionable this year.*

a leather/ canvas bag *She was carrying a smart leather bag.*

a clutch bag (= a small woman's bag that you hold in one hand) *For the evening all you need is a little clutch bag.*

an evening bag (= a small bag that a woman takes out with her in the evening) *She put her lipstick in a black velvet evening bag.*

a beach bag (= to take to the beach) *I bought a big striped beach bag.*

an overnight bag (= a small suitcase or bag for a short stay somewhere) *All you need to take is an overnight bag.*

a travel bag (= a suitcase or bag taken with you when you

travel) *Your travel bag must not weigh more than 20 kilos.*

a sponge/toilet bag (= for carrying your soap, toothpaste, shampoo etc) *I left my sponge bag in the hotel bathroom.*

a bin/dustbin bag (**BrE**) *Use the black bin bags provided by the council.*

verbs

a bag contains something *Lisa was carrying the bag containing the beach towels.*

a bag holds something *I don't think that bag will hold all those books..*

open/close a bag *The customs officer opened my bag.*

empty a bag *I've emptied my bags and I still can't find it.*

pack a bag (= put things in it preparing to go somewhere) *Mum packed a bag for a day at the beach.*

unpack a bag *She unpacked her bags and put her clothes away.*

Word origin

Date: 1200–1300

Language: Old Norse

Origin: *baggi*

bag²

verb

[transitive]

(**bagged**, **bagging**)

1 PUT to put things into bags:

He got a job bagging groceries.

2 (**informal**) GET to manage to get something that a lot of people want:

Try to bag a couple of seats at the front.

3 (**BrE**) (**informal**) to score a GOAL or a point in sport:

Larsson bagged his thirtieth goal of the season in Celtic's win.

4 (*especially BrE*) (informal) to kill or catch an animal or bird:

We bagged a rabbit.

5 be bagged and zip-tied

if prisoners are bagged and zip-tied, bags are put over their heads and their hands are tied together

bag something ↔ up

phrasal verb

(*especially BrE*)

PUT to put things into bags:

We bagged up the money before we closed the shop.

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