

boot¹

S2 W3

/bu:t/

noun [countable]

1 **SHOE** a type of shoe that covers your whole foot and the lower part of your leg → **Wellington:**

hiking boots

a pair of boots

→ RUBBER BOOT

2 **(BrE)** an enclosed space at the back of a car, used for carrying bags etc

[SYN] **trunk** **(AmE):**

The new model has a bigger boot.

3 **the boot** **(informal)**

when someone is forced to leave their job

[SYN] **the sack** **(BrE)**

→ **dismiss:**

*The chairman denied that he had been **given the boot**.*

*He should have **got the boot** years ago.*

4 **to boot** **AND/ALSO**

in addition to everything else you have mentioned:

She was a great sportswoman, and beautiful to boot.

5 **put the boot in** **(BrE)** **(informal)**

a) **UNKIND**

to criticize or be cruel to someone who is already in a bad situation

b) **ATTACK**

to attack someone by kicking them repeatedly, especially when they are on the ground

6 **the boot is on the other foot** **(BrE)** **POWER**

used to say someone who has caused problems for other people in the past is now in a situation in which people are causing problems for them

7 **(AmE)** a metal object that the police attach to one of the wheels of an illegally parked car so that it cannot be moved

SYN wheel clamp (*BrE*)

- be/get too big for your boots AT BIG¹ (14) ,
- lick somebody's boots AT LICK¹ (7) ,
- tough as old boots AT TOUGH¹ (2)

COLLOCATIONSSense 1

types of boots

leather boots *He bought some sturdy leather boots.*

wellington boots (*BrE*), rubber boots (*AmE*) (= rubber boots that stop your feet and legs getting wet) *The kids put on their rubber boots and went out in the rain.*

walking/hiking boots *In the mountains you'll need some strong walking boots.*

football/rugby/riding/ski boots *Take your muddy football boots off before you come inside.*

ankle boots (= only as high as your ankles) *Ankle boots are fashionable again this autumn.*

long boots (= as high as your knees or thighs) *I bought a pair of long leather boots.*

knee-high boots *She looked fabulous in a mini-skirt and knee-high boots.*

phrases

a pair of boots *I really need a new pair of boots this winter.*

Word origin

Sense 1-3, 5-7:

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Old French

Origin: *bote*

Sense 4:

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Old English

Origin: *bot* 'advantage, profit, use'

boot²

verb

1 (*also boot up*) [intransitive and transitive] to start the program that makes a computer ready to be used → **load**

2 [transitive] (*informal*) KICK to kick someone or something hard:

boot something in/round/down etc

The goalkeeper booted the ball upfield.

3 [transitive] (*AmE*) to stop someone from moving their illegally parked vehicle by fixing a piece of equipment to one of the wheels

[SYN] clamp (BrE)

boot somebody ↔ out

phrasal verb

(informal)

to force someone to leave a place, job, or organization, especially because they have done something wrong

[SYN] throw out

His fellow students booted him out of the class.

Word origin

Sense 1:

Date: 1900–2000

Origin: *bootstrap* 'to boot up' (1900–2000), probably from *bootstrap* (noun); → BOOTSTRAPS

Sense 2-3:

Date: 1800–1900

Origin: → BOOT ¹

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