

aw·ful¹

S1

/ˈɔːf l \$ ˈbʊl-/

adjective

1 BADUNPLEASANT very bad or unpleasant

SYN terrible

The weather was awful.

He is a pretty awful driver.

That fridge smells awful.

The last six months have been awful for her.

I've stopped believing most of what he says. Isn't that awful?

*I'm sure Suzy is dead but the **awful thing** is not knowing how it happened.*

2 [only before noun] (spoken) VERY used to emphasize how much or how good, bad etc something is:

An awful lot of people** (= a large number of people) **died in the war.

He made me feel an awful fool.

3 look/feel awful ILL

to look or feel ill:

She's lost a lot of weight and she looks awful.

4 (literary) ADMIRE making you feel great respect or fear

— **awfulness** noun [uncountable]

awful²

adverb

[+ adjective/adverb]

VERY (AmE) (spoken) very:

That kid's awful cute, with her red curls.

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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