

base²

S2 W2

noun

1 | **lowest part** [countable usually singular] BOTTOM

a)

the lowest part or surface of something

SYN bottom:

base of

There is a door at the base of the tower.

the base of a triangle

a frozen dessert with a biscuit base

a wine glass with a heavy base

The leather of his left trainer was coming away from its rubber base.

b)

the lowest point on a plant or part of your body, where it joins another part

SYN bottom:

base of

a hole in the base of the tree

He was killed by an axe blow to the base of his skull.

2 | **knowledge/ideas** [countable] BASIC the most important part of something, from which new ideas develop

SYN foundation

India has a good scientific research base.

base for

They were laying the base for a new economic recovery.

3 | **military** [countable] a place where people in a military organization live and work:

military/naval/air base

- 4 **company/organization** [uncountable and countable] COME FROM/ORIGINATE the main place from which a person, company, or organization controls their activities:

base for

He used the house as a base for his printing business.

- 5 **people/groups** [countable usually singular] ALL/EVERYTHING the people, money, groups etc that form the main part of something:

*The company has built up a loyal **customer base**.*

*By broadening the **tax base** (= all the people who pay taxes), he could raise more revenues.*

*an attempt to strengthen the city's **economic base** (= things that produce jobs and money)*

*The country's **manufacturing base** (= all the factories, companies etc that produce goods in a country) **has shrunk by 20%**.*

→ POWER BASE

- 6 **substance/mixture** [singular, uncountable] MIX the main part of a substance, meal etc to which other things are added:

paint with an oil base

base for

Vodka is the base for many cocktails.

- 7 **sport** [countable] one of the four places that a player must touch in order to get a point in games such as BASEBALL

- 8 **be off base** WRONG/INCORRECT (*AmE*) (informal)

to be completely wrong:

His estimate for painting the kitchen seems way off base.

- 9 **chemical** [countable] (*technical*) a chemical substance that combines with an acid to form a SALT

- 10 **numbers** [countable usually singular] (*technical*) the number in relation

to which a number system or mathematical table is built up, for example 10 in the DECIMAL system

11 touch base (with somebody)

to talk to someone to find out what is happening about something

— **basal** adjective

→ **cover (all) the bases** AT COVER¹ (12)

COLLOCATIONS – Meaning 2 adjectives

a good base *This data provided a good base for further research.*

a solid/ firm/ strong base *A good education should give you a solid base for life.*

a sound/ secure base *A child needs a responsive mother in order to form a secure base for future development.*

a broad base *The first year of the course aims to provide students with a broad base of knowledge.*

a knowledge base *You're building up a knowledge base that you'll be able to use later.*

verbs

have a base *Permanent staff have a better base from which to plan their career development.*

provide a base *It is essential to provide a sound base from which economic progress can be made.*

build a base *By concentrating on our core businesses we will build a strong base from which to exploit future opportunities.*

give somebody a base *The training gives you a broad base in actually running an organization.*

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Old French

