

a-sleep S2

/ə'sli:p/

adjective [not before noun]

1 SLEEP sleeping

OPP

Quiet! The baby's asleep.

fast/sound asleep (= sleeping deeply)

2 fall asleep

a) SLEEP

to begin to sleep:

Grandad fell asleep watching TV.

*One in seven road accidents is caused by drivers **falling asleep at the wheel** (= falling asleep while driving) .*

b) DIE (literary)

used to mean that someone dies, when you want to avoid saying this directly

3 half asleep ATTENTION

very tired or not completely awake:

Still half asleep, Jenny began to make the kids' breakfast.

4 an arm or leg that is asleep has been in one position for too long, so you cannot feel it properly

5 asleep at the wheel/switch

not paying attention to a situation, so that something bad happens:

Several publishers were asleep at the switch, and missed the book's potential.

→ go to sleep AT SLEEP² (3)

