

**boss**<sup>1</sup> S2 W3

/bɒs \$ bɒːs/

**noun** [countable]

**1** the person who employs you or who is in charge of you at work

→ **employer, manager, supervisor:**

*I'll have to ask my boss for a day off.*

*Since I'm **my own boss** (= I work for myself, rather than for an employer), my hours are flexible.*

**2** (informal) someone with an important position in a company or other organization:

*the new boss at Paramount Pictures*

*union bosses*

**3** CONTROL the person who is the strongest in a relationship, who controls a situation etc:

*When you first start training a dog, it's important to let him see that you're the boss.*

*You've got to **show the kids who's boss**.*

**4** a round decoration on the surface of something, for example on the ceiling of an old building

## THESAURUS

**boss** the person who is in charge of you at work. **Boss** sounds rather informal. The usual word to use in more formal English is **manager**: *Does your boss know you're looking for another job?*

**manager** the person in charge of a business such as a shop, a bank, or a hotel, or of a part of a business: *I'd like to speak to the hotel manager. | the sales manager | the manager of an Italian restaurant*

**head** the person who is in charge of an organization or a department within that organization: *the head of the CIA | My wife's head of the French department at the university. | He was the former head of the American Cancer Society.*

**chief** the most important person or one of the most important people in an organization such as the police, the fire department, or the army: *the chief of police|police/army/fire chiefs|Health chiefs have secured cash to build two new hospitals.*

**president** (*especially AmE*) the person who is in charge of a large company or a department within a company: *the president of CBS news|Angry shareholders called for the resignation of the company president.*

**managing director** (*BrE*) the person who is in charge of the daily management of a company or organization: *He's the managing director of a small printing firm.*

**chief executive** (*also chief executive officer, CEO*) the person who is in charge of the daily management of a company: *the CEO of General Motors|Universal Studios is looking for a new chief executive.*

**supervisor** someone who is in charge of a group of workers, whose job is to make sure that the workers do what the manager wants: *He was employed as a warehouse supervisor.*

**line manager** the manager who is directly in charge of you in a company: *If you want to take a holiday, first ask your line manager.*

**report to somebody** if you report to someone in a company, that person is directly in charge of you: *Jan is based in Birmingham and reports to the Head of Marketing.*

### Word origin

Sense 1-3:

**Date:** 1800–1900

**Language:** Dutch

**Origin:** *baas* 'man in charge'

Sense 4:

**Date:** 1300–1400

**Language:** Old French

**Origin:** *boce*, from Vulgar Latin *bottia*

**boss**<sup>2</sup>

verb

[transitive]

to tell people to do things, give them orders etc, especially when you have no authority to do it:

**boss somebody about** (*BrE*), **boss somebody around** (*AmE*):

*Five-year-old girls love to boss people around.*

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**boss**<sup>3</sup>

adjective

(informal)

FASHIONABLE very good, attractive, or fashionable:

*a boss car*

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