

# ba·sic

S2 W1

/ˈbeɪsɪk/

adjective

**1** BASIC forming the most important or most necessary part of something

→ **basics:**

*the **basic principles** of chemistry*

*The **basic idea** is simple.*

***basic research***

***basic information***

**basic to**

*medical techniques **basic to** the control of infection*

**2** SIMPLE/NOT COMPLICATED at the simplest or least developed level → **basics:**

*the **basic skills** of programming*

*Their knowledge is very **basic**.*

*The farm lacks even **basic equipment**.*

**3 basic salary/pay/pension etc**

the amount of money that you are paid before any special payments are added:

*On top of the **basic salary**, there are numerous other **benefits**.*

**4** [only before noun] EVERYONE basic rights, needs etc are ones that everyone needs or should have:

***basic human rights***

*poor families unable to meet their **basic needs***

## COLLOCATIONSense 1

### nouns

the basic idea *The **basic idea** is that science discovers the truth of how the world works.*

a basic principle *The basic principles underlying all the systems are the same.*

basic information *This leaflet has been designed to provide some basic information.*

basic facts *You should start by giving the basic facts.*

basic rules *Most people nowadays are aware of some of the basic rules of healthy living.*

a basic question *The interviewer will ask you some basic questions about your education and work experience.*

a basic concept *He was unfamiliar with the most basic concepts of chemistry.*

basic services *They lack basic services such as water and electricity.*

basic research *We need basic research into the causes of mental illness.*

a basic ingredient of something *The ability to adapt is a basic ingredient of survival.*

## THESAURUS

**basic** the basic things or information are the ones that are the most necessary, or the ones that you need to know first: *Visit our website for some basic facts about healthy eating, exercise and weight control. | Water – indeed everything basic to life here must be brought in by truck. | people's basic needs*

**fundamental** more important than anything else - used especially when you want to emphasize what you are saying: *The fundamental problem is a lack of resources. | one of the fundamental beliefs of Christianity | These values are fundamental to our society.*

**essential** used when talking about a particular thing or feature, which something must have in order to continue. Also used when talking about the main point, difference etc: *Freedom of the press*

*is essential to our democracy. | Change and diversity are essential characteristics of the natural world. | The essential point is this: either we act now, or the whole future of our planet is uncertain. | One of the essential differences between humans and computers is that humans are more likely to make mistakes.*

**central** very important and having a lot of influence or receiving a lot of attention: *Indonesia occupies a central role in this market. | Education is central to government policy.*

**Word origin**

**Date:** 1800–1900

**Origin:** *base*

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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