

band¹

S2 W2

/bənd/

noun [countable]

- 1** MUSIC [also + plural verb] (**BrE**) a group of musicians, especially a group that plays popular music:

The band was playing old Beatles songs.

*I grew up **playing in** rock bands.*

*Smith **joined the band** in 1989.*

*They **formed a band** when they were still at school.*

*The entertainment includes a disco and **live band**.*

*interviews with **band members***

→ BIG BAND,
BRASS BAND,
MARCHING BAND,
ONE-MAN BAND

- 2** GROUP OF PEOPLE a group of people formed because of a common belief or purpose:

band of

a small band of volunteers

bands of soldiers

- 3** AMOUNT a range of numbers within a system:

Interest rates stayed within a relatively narrow band.

age/tax/income etc band

people within the \$20,000–\$30,000 income band

- 4** PIECE OF MATERIALPIECE a flat narrow piece of something with one end joined to the other to form a circle:

papers held together with a rubber band

a slim gold band on her finger

5 a narrow area of light, colour, land etc that is different from the areas around it:

The birds have a distinctive blue band round their eyes.

band of

a thin band of cloud

6 (technical) a range of radio signals

SYN waveband

COLLOCATIONSense 1

verbs

form a band *They formed their own band and released a single.*

join a band *He took up the saxophone and joined the school band.*

play/ sing in a band (= be a musician or singer in a band) *Budd played in a rock band.*

lead a band (= either as lead singer or as a conductor) *He led his own band in Florida and played in clubs.*

a band performs/ plays *The band is performing live on Saturday night.*

a band strikes up (= starts playing) *We were on the dance floor waiting for the band to strike up.*

ADJECTIVES/NOUN + band

a rock/jazz etc band *He's the saxophonist in a jazz band.*

a brass band (= a band of brass instruments such as trumpets and trombones) *A brass band was playing in the park.*

a live band (= playing live music, not recorded music) *There's a live band at the club on Saturday nights.*

the school band *She plays the trumpet in the school band.*

a marching band (= musicians who march as they play) *the Ohio state marching band*

a military band (= musicians who play music on military occasions) *a military band with their brass and their drums*

band + NOUN

a band member *He was one of the original band members.*

a band leader (= the conductor of a brass band, a military band, etc)

COMMON ERRORS

⚠ Do not say 'make a band'. Say *form a band*.

Word origin

Sense 1-2:

Date: 1400–1500

Language: French

Origin: *bande* 'group of people'

Sense 3-6:

Date: 1400–1500

Language: French

Origin: *bande* 'flat strip, edge, side'

band²

verb

[transitive usually passive]

(BrE) to put people or things into different groups, usually according to income, value, or price:

After valuation, properties will be banded in groups of £20,000 or more.

band together

phrasal verb

UNITE if people band together, they unite in order to achieve something:

Local people have banded together to fight the company's plans.

