

bug¹

S3

/bʌg/

noun [countable]

1 (informal) ILLNESS/DISEASE an illness that people catch very easily from each other but is not very serious:

catch/pick up/get a bug

I picked up a bug last weekend.

*There's a nasty **bug going round** (= that a lot of people have caught) .*

tummy/stomach bug (= illness affecting your stomach)

He's off work with a stomach bug.

*a 24-hour **flu bug***

2 (especially AmE) a small insect

3 FAULT/SOMETHING WRONG a fault in the system of instructions that operates a computer:

a bug in the software

→ DEBUG

4 LISTEN a small piece of electronic equipment for listening secretly to other people's conversations

5 (informal) INTERESTED a sudden strong interest in doing something:

the travel/sailing etc bug

She's got the travel bug.

*I had one flying lesson and immediately **caught the bug** (= became very interested in flying) .*

COLLOCATIONSSense 1

ADJECTIVES/NOUN + bug

a nasty/horrible bug *It was a really nasty bug.*

a stomach bug (also a tummy bug (more informal)) *He's off school*

with a stomach bug.

a flu bug *We've all had a horrible flu bug.*

a 24-hour/ 2-day etc bug *The doctor says it's just a 24-hour bug.*

verbs

have a bug *Two of us had a nasty bug on holiday.*

catch/ get a bug *Six out of ten travellers get a stomach bug abroad.*

pick up a bug (= catch one) *He seems to pick up every bug going.*

a bug is going around (= a lot of people have it) *A lot of staff are off because there's a bug going round.*

Word origin

Date: 1600–1700

Origin: Perhaps from *bug* 'evil spirit, scarecrow' (14–18 centuries)

bug²

verb

[transitive]

(bugged, bugging)

1 (informal) ANNOY to annoy someone:

It just bugs me that I have to work so many extra hours for no extra money.

The baby's crying is really bugging him.

2 LISTEN to put a BUG (= small piece of electronic equipment) somewhere secretly in order to listen to conversations:

Do you think the room is bugged?

Bug

noun

(American English)(informal)

a Beetle (= type of small Volkswagen car)