

brave¹

S3

/breɪv/

adjective (*comparative* **braver**, *superlative* **bravest**)

1

a) BRAVE

dealing with danger, pain, or difficult situations with courage and confidence

SYN courageous

brave soldiers

her brave fight against cancer

it is **brave of somebody** (to do something)

It was brave of you to speak in front of all those people.

b) **the brave** [plural] BRAVE

brave people:

Today we remember the brave who died in the last war.

2 ALMOST very good:

Despite their captain's brave performance, Arsenal lost 2–1.

brave effort/attempt

the brave efforts of the medical staff to save his life

3 **put on a brave face/front** PRETEND

to pretend that you are happy when you are really very upset

4 **brave new world**

a situation or a way of doing something that is new and exciting and meant to improve people's lives:

the brave new world of digital television

— **bravely** adv:

She smiled bravely.

THESAURUS

brave showing that you are not afraid to do things that other people

find dangerous or difficult: *I think he was incredibly brave to do a parachute jump.* | *a brave attempt to change the system*

courageous /kə'reɪdʒəs/ (especially written) very brave – used especially about someone fighting for what they believe in, or fighting against a disease: *a courageous speech* | *her courageous fight against cancer*

daring brave and willing to take a lot of risks: *a daring escape from a prison camp* | *a daring fighter pilot* | *a daring thing to do*

bold willing to make difficult decisions or say what you think, even though it may involve risks: *It was a bold move to set up his own company.* | *She was very bold in criticizing the leadership.*

intrepid (written) willing to do dangerous things or go to dangerous places: *an intrepid traveller* | *We sent our intrepid reporter to find out what is happening.*

adventurous used about someone who enjoys going to new places and doing new, possibly dangerous, things: *More adventurous visitors can go skiing or snowboarding.*

fearless not afraid of anything or anyone: *a fearless campaigner for human rights*

heroic very brave and admired by many people: *heroic rescuers* | *Despite heroic efforts to save him, he died.*

plucky brave and determined – often used in newspapers: *Plucky Megan, aged 10, has beaten cancer twice.*

Word origin

Date: 1400–1500

Language: French

Origin: Old Italian and Old Spanish *bravo* 'brave, wild', from Latin *barbarus*; → [BARBAROUS](#)

brave²

verb

[transitive]

1 **DEAL WITH** to deal with a difficult, dangerous, or unpleasant situation:

I decided to take the train to work rather than brave the traffic.

brave the elements/weather etc (= go out in bad weather)

More than 100 people braved the elements and attended the rally.

2 brave it out BRAVE

to deal bravely with something that is frightening or difficult

brave³

noun

[countable] a young fighting man from a Native American tribe

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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