

box¹ S1 W1
 /bɒks \$ bɔːks/
 noun

1 | container CONTAINER[countable] a container for putting things in, especially one with four stiff straight sides:

cardboard/wooden/plastic etc box
a strong cardboard box

toolbox/shoebox/matchbox etc (= a box used for keeping tools etc in)

2 | amount AMOUNT IN A BOX (*also boxful*) [countable] the amount of something contained in a box:

box of
a box of chocolates

3 | shape SQUARE SHAPE[countable]

a)

a small square on a page for people to write information in:

Put an 'X' in the box if you would like to join our mailing list.

b)

a SQUARE or RECTANGLE on a page where information is given or where an answer can be written:

The box on the left gives a short history of the battle.

4 | in a court/theatre etc IN A THEATRE/COURT[countable] a small area of a theatre or court that is separate from where other people are sitting:

the jury box

5 | small building [countable] a small building or structure used for a particular purpose

SYN booth

a sentry box

telephone box (*BrE*)

6 | at a post office **box 25/450 etc**

a box with a number in a POST OFFICE, where you can have letters etc sent instead of to your own address

SYN PO Box

7 | sports field SPORTS FIELD [countable usually singular] a special area of a sports field that is marked by lines and used for a particular purpose:

*the **penalty box***

8 | protection WORN DURING SPORTS [countable] (*BrE*) a piece of plastic that a man wears over his sex organs to protect them when he is playing a sport, especially CRICKET

9 | tree TREE [uncountable and countable] a small tree that keeps its leaves in winter and is often planted around the edge of a garden or field:

*a **box hedge***

10 | television the box (*informal*) TELEVISION/RADIO
the television:

What's on the box tonight?

11 | be out of your box DRINK (*BrE*) (*informal*)
to be very drunk or have taken an illegal drug

→ BLACK BOX

COLLOCATIONSense 1

types of box

a cardboard/wooden/plastic box *We packed all our things into big cardboard boxes.*

a storage box (= for storing things in) *Plastic storage boxes are useful for putting things in the attic.*

a toolbox *The hammer's in the tool box.*

a shoebox (= that you buy shoes in) *She used to keep photographs in old shoe boxes.*

a sandwich/lunch box *Most of the kids bring lunch boxes to school.*

a jewellery box (*BrE*),

a jewelry box (*AmE*)

A jewellery box had gone missing.

a money box (= that children save money in) *How much have you got in your money box?*

a cash box (= for keeping a supply of money in, for example in a shop) *Thieves stole £100 from a cash box at the school.*

phrases

a pile/ stack of boxes *There was a pile of boxes in the street outside the house.*

Word origin

Date: 900–1000

Language: Latin

Origin: *buxus*, from Greek *pyxis*, from *pyxos* type of tree, whose wood was used for making boxes

box²

verb

1 [intransitive and transitive] to fight someone as a sport by hitting them with your closed hands inside big leather GLOVES

2 (*also box up*) [transitive] to put things in boxes:
Help me box up the Christmas tree lights.

→ BOXED

3 [transitive] DRAW to draw a box around something on a page

4 **box somebody's ears** HIT/BUMP INTO (old-fashioned)
to hit someone on the side of their head

box somebody/ something ↔ in

phrasal verb

1 AROUND/ROUND to surround someone or something so that they are unable to move freely:

Someone had parked right behind them, boxing them in.

2 **feel boxed in**

a) LIMIT
to feel that you cannot do what you want to do because a person or situation is limiting you:

Married for only a year, Connie already felt boxed in.

b) MOVE/CHANGE POSITION

to feel that you cannot move freely, because you are in a small space

box something ↔ off
phrasal verb

to separate a particular area from a larger one by putting walls around it:

We're going to box off that corner to get extra storage space.

Word origin

Sense 1,4:

Date: 1300–1400

Origin: Origin unknown.

Sense 2-3:

Date: 1400–1500

Origin: → BOX¹

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