

broad¹

S2 W2

/brɔ:d \$ brɔ:d/

adjective

1 WIDEWIDE **wide** a road, river, or part of someone's body etc that is broad is wide

OPP

→ **breadth:**

We went along a broad passage.

He was six feet tall, with broad shoulders.

six feet/three metres etc broad

The room is three metres long and two metres broad.

In everyday English, people usually say **wide** rather than **broad**:

*a **wide** river/street/corridor*

*They sell a **wide** range of bikes.*

Broad, however, is always used when describing someone's shoulders or back.

2 INCLUDING A LOT **including a lot** LOT/LARGE NUMBER OR AMOUNT including many different kinds of things or people

OPP

→ **breadth:**

The show aims to reach the broadest possible audience.

broad range/spectrum

Students here study a broad range of subjects.

broad category/field/area etc

Private pension schemes fall into two broad categories.

*a party which lacks a **broad base** of political support*

*The play is a comedy, **in the broadest sense of the word**.*

3 GENERALMAIN **general** concerning the main ideas or parts of something rather than all the details:

*The client should understand, **in broad terms**, the likely cost of the case.*

broad consensus/agreement etc

The members were in broad agreement.

broad outline/framework

I'll give you a broad outline of the plan.

4 LARGE AREA **large area** covering a large area:

a broad expanse of water

5 WAY OF SPEAKINGVERY **way of speaking** a broad ACCENT clearly shows where you come from

SYN strong

a broad Scottish accent

6 **broad smile/grin**

a big smile:

Abby came in with a broad smile on her face.

7 **in broad daylight** LIGHT

if something, especially a crime, happens in broad daylight, it happens in the daytime and in public:

The attack happened in broad daylight, in one of the busiest parts of town.

8 **broad hint** CLEAR/EASY TO UNDERSTAND

a HINT (= suggestion) that is very clear and easy to understand:

In June he gave a broad hint that he might retire.

9 **a broad church** VARIOUS/OF DIFFERENT KINDS (BrE)

an organization that contains a wide range of opinions:

The Labour Party has to be a broad church.

10 **humour** broad humour is rather rude or concerned with sex

11 **broad in the beam** (informal) FAT

having large or fat HIPS

COLLOCATIONS – Meaning 2

broad + NOUN

a broad range *Sport is a part of a broad range of activities that we call leisure.*

a broad spectrum (= range) *Among the public there is a broad spectrum of opinion.*

a broad category *Our range of programmes fall into three broad categories.*

a broad area/ field (= including a lot of different things) *Psychobiology is a broad area covering many different topics.*

a broad cross-section (= a varied group that is typical of a larger varied group) *We offer entertainment to appeal to a broad cross-section of people.*

a broad base *The course is designed to provide a broad base for students looking to work in IT.*

a broad alliance/ coalition *The government was a broad alliance of eight political parties.*

a broad curriculum (= one that includes a range of subjects) *Students are encouraged to follow a broad curriculum in the first year.*

have broad appeal (= be attractive to many different types of people) *Their music has a very broad appeal.*

Word origin

Language: Old English

Origin: *brad*

broad²

noun

[countable] (AmE) (spoken) (not polite)

WOMAN an offensive word for a woman

