

bot·tom¹ S1 W3

/ˈbɒtəm \$ ˈbɔː-/

noun

1 **lowest part the bottom** LOWEST PART BOTTOM

the lowest part of something

OPP

the bottom of

Can you hold the bottom of the ladder for me?

at the bottom (of something)

Grandma was standing at the bottom of the stairs.

at the bottom of the page

Go downstairs and wait for me at the bottom.

the bottom of the page/screen

There should be a menu bar at the bottom of your screen.

2 **lowest side** LOWEST SIDE BOTTOM [countable usually singular] the flat surface on the lowest side of an object:

the bottom of something

What's that on the bottom of your shoe?

3 **lowest inner part** CUP/BOX ETC BOTTOM [countable usually singular] the lowest inner surface of something such as a container:

at/in the bottom of something

I found the keys – they were at the bottom of my handbag.

The drugs had been hidden in a suitcase with a false bottom.

4 **lowest social position/rank the bottom** LOWEST POSITION LOW POSITION OR RANK the lowest position in an organization or company

OPP

the bottom of

The Giants are at the bottom of the league.

the bottom of the ladder/pile/heap (= the lowest position in society, an

organization etc)

Immigrants were at the bottom of the pile.

*Higgins had **started at the bottom** (= in a low position in a company) and worked his way up to become managing director.*

second/third etc from bottom

United currently lie second from bottom of the Premier League.

5 **ocean/river the bottom** SEA/RIVER

the ground under a sea, river etc, or the flat land in a valley:

the bottom of

The bottom of the pool is very slippery.

at/on the bottom (of something)

A body was found at the bottom of the canal.

the sea/river bottom

fish living on the sea bottom

6 **body** BODY[countable] the part of your body that you sit on

SYN backside

I just sat on my bottom and slid down.

7 **clothes** CLOTHES[countable usually plural] the part of a set of clothes that you wear on the lower part of your body:

pyjama bottoms

a blue bikini bottom

8 **furthest part the bottom of a road/garden etc** (*especially BrE*) FAR

the part of a road, area of land etc that is furthest from where you are:

There's a shop at the bottom of the street.

9 **get to the bottom of something** CAUSE

to find out the cause of a problem or situation:

I never got to the bottom of this!

10 **be/lie at the bottom of something** CAUSE

to be the basic cause of a problem or situation:

Lack of money is at the bottom of many family problems.

11 be at/hit/reach rock bottom WORSE

a)

to be in a very bad situation that could not be any worse:

I was at rock bottom, and knew I had to try and stop drinking.

b)

to be at a very low level:

We bought the house when prices were at rock bottom.

12 from the bottom of your heart REAL/NOT FALSE OR ARTIFICIAL

in a very sincere way:

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

13 the bottom drops/falls out of the market BUY

when people stop buying a particular product, so that the people who sell it can no longer make any money

14 bottoms up! (spoken) DRINK

used to tell someone to enjoy or finish their alcoholic drink

15 big-bottomed/round-bottomed etc BOTTOM

having a bottom or base that is big, round etc

16 at bottom (formal) TRUE

the way a person or situation really is, although they may seem different:

She's a good kind person at bottom.

→ top,

→ you can bet your bottom dollar AT BET¹ (4),

→ knock the bottom out of AT KNOCK¹ (25),

→ from top to bottom AT TOP¹ (21),

→ the bottom of the list AT LIST¹ (2),

→ scrape the bottom of the barrel AT SCRAPE¹ (5)

THESAURUS

the bottom the lowest part of something: *The house is at the bottom of that hill. | She scrolled down to the bottom of the screen.*

the underneath/the underside the bottom surface on the

outside of something: *You will find the serial number on the underneath of the vacuum cleaner.*

base the lowest part or the wide bottom part on which something stands: *The lamp has a square base. | He had broken a bone at the base of his spine.*

the foot (literary) the bottom of a tree, a hill, or some stairs: *There was a small village at the foot of the mountain.*

bed the ground at the bottom of a river, a lake, or the sea: *the sea bed | They found some interesting stones on the river bed.*

the foundations the layer of cement and stones that forms the bottom of a building: *The builders have begun laying the foundations for the house.*

Word origin

Language: Old English

Origin: *botm*