

# ad·van·tage S2 W1

/əd'vɑːntɪdʒ \$ əd'væn-/

noun

- 1 [uncountable and countable] ADVANTAGE something that helps you to be more successful than others, or the state of having this

OPP

## advantage over

*Her experience meant that she had a big advantage over her opponent.*

*Younger workers tend to **be at an advantage** (= have an advantage) when applying for jobs.*

*It might **be to your advantage** (= it might help you) to take a computer course of some kind.*

- 2 [uncountable and countable] GOOD POINT OR CHARACTERISTIC a good or useful feature that something has:

## advantage of

*One of the many advantages of living in New York is that you can eat out at almost any time of day.*

## advantage over

*This printer has several advantages over conventional printers.*

- 3 **take advantage of somebody** USE A PERSON

to treat someone unfairly in order to get what you want, especially someone who is generous or easily persuaded:

*Don't lend them the car – they're taking advantage of you!*

- 4 **take advantage of something (to do something)** USE SOMETHING

to use a particular situation to do or get what you want:

*I took advantage of the good weather to paint the shed.*

*You'll want to **take full advantage** of the beach-front clubs.*

## 5 use/turn something to your/good advantage

to use something that you have or that happens in order to achieve something:

*How could he turn the situation to his advantage?*

*Burns used his family connections to good advantage.*

## 6 show something to (good/great) advantage IMPRESS

to make the best features of someone or something very noticeable:

*Her dress showed her tanned skin to great advantage.*

## 7 advantage somebody

used in tennis to show that the person named has won the next point after the score was 40–40

## COLLOCATIONS – Meanings 1 & 2

### verbs

have an advantage (*also* enjoy an advantage **(formal)**) *Our parents didn't have all the advantages that we have.* |

*Western countries enjoyed considerable advantages in terms of technology.*

get/gain an advantage *Both teams tried to get an advantage.*

give somebody an advantage *His height gives him a big advantage.*

work to your advantage (= make you have an advantage – often used when this is unexpected) *Sometimes a lack of experience can work to your advantage.*

see the advantage (= understand the advantage) *I can see the advantage of living near the station.*

### adjectives

a big/great/massive/huge advantage *It's a great advantage to be able to speak some Spanish.*

a slight advantage (= a small one) *Karpov enjoyed a slight advantage over his opponent.*

an unfair advantage *Companies that receive government*

*subsidies have an unfair advantage.*

a definite/distinct advantage (= one that you can clearly notice) *Electronic trading has a number of distinct advantages.*

a real advantage (= a definite advantage) *The new system has some real advantages.*

an added advantage (= an extra advantage) *Candidates with experience in Sales and Marketing would have an added advantage.*

a political advantage *Republicans have a political advantage in most of those areas.*

a military advantage *The military advantage had shifted towards the rebels.*

a psychological advantage *Winning the first game gives you a psychological advantage over your opponent.*

## phrases

the advantages and disadvantages of something *the advantages and disadvantages of living in a big city*

the advantages outweigh the disadvantages (= the advantages are more valuable) *When it comes down to working from home, you have to decide if the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.*

## COMMON ERRORS

⚠ Do not say 'a good advantage'. Say *a big advantage* or *a real advantage*.

## THESAURUS – Meaning 2

**advantage** a good feature that something has, which makes it better, more useful etc than other things: *The great advantage of digital cameras is that there is no film to process.*

**benefit** a feature of something that has a good effect on people's lives: *Regular exercise has many benefits, including reducing the risk of heart disease.*

**merit** a good feature that something has, which you consider when you are deciding whether it is the best choice: *The committee will consider the merits of the proposals.* | *The merits and demerits of* (= the good and bad features of) *alternative funding systems were widely discussed in the newspapers.* | *The chairman saw no great merit in this suggestion* (= he did not think that it was a good idea) .

**virtue** an advantage that makes you believe that something is a good thing: *They believed in the virtues of culture, civilization, and reason.* | *He's always extolling the virtues of hard work* (= saying that hard work is a good thing) .

**the good/great/best thing about something (especially spoken)** used when mentioning a good feature of something. This phrase is rather informal and you should not use it in formal essays: *The good thing about cycling is that you don't have to worry about getting stuck in a traffic jam.*

**the beauty of something is that** used when you want to emphasize that something has a very good or useful feature: *The beauty of the plan is that it is so simple.*

### Word origin

**Date:** 1300–1400

**Language:** Old French

**Origin:** *avantage*, from *avant* 'before', from Latin *abante*; → [ADVANCE](#) <sup>2</sup>