

bad¹

S1 W1

/bæd/

adjective

(*comparative* **worse** /wɜːs \$ wɜːrs/, *superlative* **worst** /wɜːst \$ wɜːrst/)

1 | not good HARMFULUNPLEASANT unpleasant or likely to cause problems

OPP

I have some bad news for you.

I thought things couldn't possibly get any worse.

The plane was delayed for several hours by bad weather.

It's difficult to break bad habits.

a bad smell

2 | low quality LOW QUALITYBAD low in quality or below an acceptable standard

OPP

The failure of the company was due to bad management.

Your handwriting is so bad I can hardly read it.

That was the worst movie I've ever seen.

3 | not sensible [usually before noun]not sensible, or not suitable in a particular situation

OPP

Cutting spending at this time is a bad idea.

*Making big changes in your diet all at once is a **bad thing to do**.*

4 | morally wrong WRONGBAD PERSON morally wrong or evil

OPP

He's a bad man – keep away from him.

→ BAD GUY

5 | wrong behaviour BAD PERSON (spoken) doing something you should not do, or behaving in a wrong way – used especially about children or pets

SYN naughty

Katie was very bad today!

bad girl/dog etc

Bad cat! Get off the table!

6 | serious SERIOUS/SERIOUS SITUATION serious or severe:

He was in a bad accident.

The pain in my side is worse than it was yesterday.

7 | a bad time/moment etc DIFFICULT

a time that is not suitable or causes problems:

It's a bad time to have to borrow money, with interest rates so high.

You've come at the worst possible moment. I have a meeting in five minutes.

8 | harmful HARM/BE BAD FOR damaging or harmful:

Pollution is having a bad effect on fish stocks.

bad for

Smoking is bad for your health.

*Too much salt can be **bad for you**.*

*It is **bad** for kids to be on their own so much.*

9 | food FOOD/DECAY food that is bad is not safe to eat because it has decayed:

bad fish

*This milk has **gone bad**.*

10 | no skill BAD AT having no skill or ability in a particular activity:

bad at (doing) something

I'm really bad at chess.

They have got to be the worst band on the planet.

11 bad heart/leg/back etc CONDITION/STATE OF SOMETHING

a heart, leg etc that is injured or does not work correctly:

I haven't been able to do much because of my bad back.

12 language SWEARING/SWEAR bad language is rude or offensive:

We were shocked to hear the little boy using bad language in front of his mother.

Jacky said a bad word!

13 be in a bad mood

(also / be in a bad temper *BrE*)

BAD-TEMPERED

to feel annoyed or angry:

The boss is in a bad mood.

14 feel bad GUILTY

a) GUILTY/FEEL GUILTY

to feel ashamed or sorry about something:

feel bad about (doing) something

I felt bad about not being able to come last night.

feel bad for

I feel bad for Ann – she studied so hard for that test and she still didn't pass.

b)

to feel ill

15 not bad (spoken) GOOD ENOUGH

used to say that something is good, or better than you expected:

'How are you?' 'Oh, not bad.'

That's not a bad idea.

16 not too/so bad (spoken)

used to say that something is not as bad as expected:

The exams weren't so bad.

17 too bad (spoken)

a) DON'T CARE

used to say that you do not care that something bad happens to someone:

'I'm going to be late now!' 'Too bad – you should have gotten up earlier.'

b) PITY/IT'S A PITY

used to say that you are sorry that something bad has happened to someone:

It's too bad that you couldn't come to the party last night.

18 go from bad to worse WORSE

to become even more unpleasant or difficult:

The schools have gone from bad to worse in this area.

19 be in a bad way (informal) SERIOUS SITUATION

to be very ill, unhappy, or injured, or not in a good condition:

She was in a bad way after the funeral.

20 a bad name BAD

if something has a bad name, people do not respect or trust it:

have/get a bad name

The bar had a bad name and was avoided by all the locals.

give somebody/something a bad name

These annoying tourists give all Americans a bad name.

21 bad lot/sort/type (BrE) (old-fashioned) BAD PERSON

someone who is morally bad or cannot be trusted

22 bad penny (BrE) DIFFICULT

someone or something that causes trouble and is difficult to avoid:

*Sure enough, Steve **turned up like the proverbial bad***

penny (= suddenly appeared) .

23 be taken bad (*BrE*) (informal) ILL

to become ill:

He was taken bad in the middle of the night.

24 in bad faith DISHONEST

if someone does something in bad faith, they are behaving dishonestly and have no intention of keeping a promise:

In order to sue, you have to prove that the company was acting in bad faith.

25 bad news (spoken informal) BAD PERSON

someone or something that always causes trouble:

I'd avoid her if I were you. She's bad news.

26 bad form (*BrE*) (old-fashioned) BAD BEHAVIOUR OR ACTIONS

socially unacceptable behaviour:

It's bad form to argue with the umpire.

27 bad blood AGAINST/OPPOSE

angry or bitter feelings between people:

bad blood between

There's too much bad blood between them.

28 not have a bad word to say about/against somebody

if no one has a bad word to say about a particular person, everyone likes and respects that person

29 it's bad enough... DIFFICULT (spoken)

used to say that you already have one problem, so that you do not want to worry about or deal with another one:

It's bad enough having to bring up three kids on your own, without having to worry about money as well!

30 something can't be bad (spoken) GOOD ENOUGH

used to persuade someone that something is good or worth doing:

You only pay £10 deposit and no interest – that can't be

bad, can it?

31 (*comparative* **badder**, *superlative* **baddest**) (*especially AmE*)
(spoken informal)

a)

used when you think something is very good:

Now that's a bad car!

b)

someone who is bad is very determined and does not always obey rules – used to show approval

— **badness** *noun* [uncountable]

THESAURUS

bad not good: *a bad idea* | *His behaviour is getting worse.*

poor not as good as it could be or should be: *A poor diet can lead to ill health.* | *his poor performance at school*

not very good not good – often used instead of saying directly that something was 'bad', especially when you were disappointed by it: *The film wasn't very good.*

disappointing not as good as you hoped or expected: *Her exam results were disappointing.* | *a disappointing start to the campaign*

negative bad – used when talking about the bad result or effect of something: *All the publicity had a negative impact on sales.* | *the negative effects of climate change*

undesirable (*formal*) bad and not wanted: *The policy had some undesirable consequences.* | *drug abuse and other undesirable behaviour*

unfavourable (*formal*) unfavourable conditions are not good for doing something: *The boat race was cancelled because of unfavourable weather.*

very bad

awful/ terrible/ dreadful (*especially BrE*) very bad: *The movie was awful.* | *Her house is in a terrible state.* | *a dreadful crime*

horrible very bad, especially in a way that shocks or upsets you: *He describes prison as 'a horrible place'.* | *It was a horrible experience.*

disgusting smelling or tasting very bad: *The food was disgusting.* | *The fish smelled disgusting.*

lousy /'laʊzi/ (*informal*) very bad or disappointing: *The weather has been lousy all week.* | *I'm fed up with this lousy job.*

ghastly /'gɑːstli \$ 'gæstli/ (*BrE*) (*informal*) very bad: *I've had a ghastly day.* | *a ghastly mistake*

severe severe problems, injuries, illnesses etc are very bad and serious: *The country faces severe economic problems.* | *severe delays* | *He suffered severe head injuries in a car crash.*

atrocious/ appalling/ horrendous extremely bad in a way that is shocking: *Her behaviour has been absolutely atrocious.* | *The country has an appalling human rights record.*

abysmal /ə'bizm l/ very bad and of a very low standard: *The team's performance was abysmal.* | *the abysmal conditions in some prisons*

Word origin

Date: 1200–1300

Origin: Perhaps from Old English *bæddel* 'male homosexual'

bad²

noun

1 to the bad (*BrE*) (*informal*) POOR

if you are a particular amount to the bad, you are that much poorer or you owe that much:

Thanks to your mistake, I'm £500 to the bad!

2 my bad! (*AmE*) (spoken informal)

used to say that you have made a mistake or that something is your fault

3 go to the bad (*BrE*) (old-fashioned) BAD BEHAVIOUR OR ACTIONS

to begin living in a wrong or immoral way

bad³

adverb

(spoken)

a word used to mean 'badly' that many people think is incorrect:

I need that money bad.

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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