

be·low

S2 W2

/bɪ'ləʊ \$ -'loʊ/

adverb, preposition

1 UNDER/BELOW in a lower place or position, or on a lower level

OPP

*an animal that lives **below** ground*

*Water was dripping onto the floor **below**.*

*I could hear voices in the courtyard **below** my window.*

*They camped a few hundred feet **below** the summit.*

***Down below**, people were talking and laughing.*

*Somewhere **far below**, a door slammed.*

*The kitchen is **directly below** her bedroom.*

*Captain Parker **went below** (= to the lower level of the ship), leaving Clooney in charge.*

2 POSITION/RANK of a lower rank or having a less important job than someone else

OPP

*No one **below** the level of senior manager was present at the meeting.*

and/or below

*officers of the rank of captain **and below***

3 LESS less than a particular number, amount, level etc

OPP

*Test scores **below** 50 were classed as 'unsatisfactory'.*

*In June the rate of inflation fell **below** 3%.*

*Tom's spelling is **well below** average (= much worse than the normal standard).*

below freezing/zero (= lower than the temperature at which water freezes)

In winter, temperatures dip to 40 degrees below freezing.

and/or below

free travel for children four years old and below

4 lower on the same page, or on a later page

OPP

Details of courses are listed below.

For more information, see below.

→ **below par** AT PAR ⁽²⁾,

→ **below the belt** AT BELT ¹ ⁽⁴⁾

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Origin: → LOW ¹

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

© Pearson Education Limited 2009, 2011, 2015