

**best**<sup>1</sup>

S1 W1

/best/

**adjective** [superlative of good]

**1** **BEST** better than anything else or anyone else in quality, skill, how effective it is etc:

*He won the **best** actor award.*

*What's the **best way** to cook this fish?*

*The **best thing** to do is to stop worrying.*

**it's best to do something**

*It's **best** to go later in the season.*

**easily the best/by far the best** (= much better than anything else)

*John's idea is **by far the best** option.*

*Our pilots are given **the best possible** training.*

*We use only **the very best** ingredients.*

**2 best friend** BEST

the friend that you know and like better than anyone else:

*She was my **best friend** in college.*

**3 best dress/shoes/clothes etc** BEST

clothing that you keep for special occasions:

*I put on my **best suit** for the wedding.*

**4 the next best thing** LIKE/SIMILAR

something that is not exactly what you want but is as similar to it as possible:

*If sterile equipment isn't available, the **next best thing** is to clean equipment with disinfectant.*

**5 best of all** BEST

used to introduce the fact about a situation that is even better than

the other good things:

*It's clean and well-located, but best of all, it's affordable.*

## 6 best before (BrE)

written on food packets with the date that the food should be eaten before:

*Best before 13 July.*

*a best-before date*

→ **be on your best behaviour** AT BEHAVIOUR <sup>(2)</sup>,

→ **your best bet** AT BET <sup>2</sup> <sup>(2)</sup>,

→ **the best/better part of** AT PART <sup>1</sup> <sup>(6)</sup>

## COLLOCATIONSSense 1

### adverbs

the very best *He's one of the very best players around.*

easily the best *The series was easily the best TV drama this year.*

by far the best *One girl stood out as by far the best singer.*

### adjectives

the best possible *We sold the house at the best possible time.*

the best available *The tuition we offer here is the best available.*

### nouns

the best way to do/of doing something *The best way to learn a language is to live in a country where it is spoken.*

the best thing to do *The best thing to do is to apologize immediately.*

the best way forward (= the best way to make progress or deal with a problem) *We believe that a merger is the best way forward for the business.*

make the best use of something *Making the best use of space is important in any room.*

朗文当代

## Word origin

**Language:** Old English

**Origin:** *betst*

---

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*

© Pearson Education Limited 2009, 2011, 2015