

balance² S3

verb

- 1** KEEP STEADY[intransitive and transitive] **BALANCE** to be in or get into a steady position, without falling to one side or the other, or to put something into this position:

balance something on something

She was balancing a plate of food on her knees.

balance on

He turned around, balancing awkwardly on one foot.

- 2** [intransitive and transitive] to be equal in importance, amount, value, or effect to something that has the opposite effect:

Job losses in manufacturing were balanced by job increases in the service sector.

just enough sugar to balance the acidity of the fruit

- 3** THINK ABOUT[transitive] **THINK ABOUT** to consider the importance of one thing in relation to something else when you are making a decision:

balance something against something

The courts must balance our liberty against the security of the nation.

- 4 balance the budget** MONEY

if a government balances the budget, they make the amount of money that they spend equal to the amount of money available

- 5 balance the books**

to show that the amount of money a business has received is equal to the amount spent

balance out

phrasal verb

if two or more things balance out, the final result is that they are equal in amount, importance, or effect:

Sometimes I look after the kids and sometimes John does – it all balances out.

→ BALANCING ACT

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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