

af·ford

S1 W3

/ə'fɔ:d \$ -ɔ:rd/

verb [transitive]

1 **can/could afford** [usually negative]

a) PAY FOR

to have enough money to buy or pay for something:

afford (to do) something

We can't afford to go on vacation this year.

I couldn't afford the rent on my own.

How can she afford to eat out every night?

b) TIME/HAVE TIME

to have enough time to do something:

Dad can't afford any more time off work.

c) CAN

if you cannot afford to do something, you must not do it because it could cause serious problems for you:

afford (to do) something

We can't afford to wait any longer or we'll miss the plane.

⚠ **Afford** can be followed by an infinitive with **to**, but not an '-ing' form: *I can't afford to buy (NOT can't afford buying) a car.*

2 (formal) PROVIDE to provide something or allow something to happen:

*The room **affords** a beautiful **view** over the city.*

afford (somebody) an opportunity/chance

It afforded her the opportunity to improve her tennis skills.

*The new law will **afford protection** to employees.*

— **affordable** adjective:

affordable housing

Word origin

Language: Old English

Origin: *geforthian* 'to carry out', from *forth*

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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