

a·bove¹

S2 W1

/ə'boʊv/

adverb, preposition

1 ABOVE in a higher position than something else

SYN over

OPP

Our office is above the hairdresser's.

He had a bruise just above his left eye.

I heard a strange noise coming from the room above.

*The great bird hovered **high above** our heads.*

2 MORE THAN A NUMBER OR AMOUNT more than a particular number, amount, or level

OPP

50 metres above sea level

above freezing/zero (= higher than the temperature at which water freezes)

Tonight, temperatures should be just above freezing.

and/or above

free medical care for pensioners aged 65 and above

Prize winners must have gained marks of 80% or above.

*The salaries we offer are **well above** (= much higher than) average.*

3 MORE THAN SOMETHING OR SOMEBODY ELSE to a greater degree than something else:

Many employers value personality above experience or qualifications.

above all (else) (= used to say that something is more important than anything else)

Max is hard-working, cheerful, and above all honest.

*medals awarded for bravery **above and beyond** the call of duty* (= greater than it is your duty to show)

4 LOUD/NOISY louder or clearer than other sounds:

You can always hear her voice above everybody else's.

5 POSITION/RANK higher in rank, power, or importance

OPP

He never rose above the rank of corporal.

and/or above

officers of the rank of Major and above

from above (= from people in higher authority)

We just obey orders from above.

6 (formal) before, in the same piece of writing

OPP

As mentioned above, there is a service charge.

Write to the address above for further information.

7 not be above (doing) something

to not be too good or honest to do something:

Eileen's not above flirting with the boss when it suits her.

8 be above suspicion/reproach/criticism etc GOOD/MORAL

to be so good that no one can doubt or criticize you:

Even the king's closest advisers were not above suspicion.

9 get above yourself PROUD

to think you are better or more important than you really are

→ **over and above** AT OVER¹ (14),

→ be above the law AT LAW (13)

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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