

# a-**gainst**

S1 W1

/ə'genst, ə'geɪnst \$ ə'genst/

preposition

1

## a) AGAINST/OPPOSE

used to say that someone opposes or disagrees with something:

*Every council member voted **against** the proposal.*

*those who are campaigning **against** the new road*

*He advised me **against** travelling.*

*Mr Howard has declared that he is **against** all forms of racism.*

*the fight **against** terrorism*

## b) AGAINST/OPPOSE

used to say that an action is not wanted or approved of by someone:

*They got married **against** her parents' **wishes** (= although they knew her parents did not want them to).*

*She has been kept in the house **against** her **will** (= she does not want to stay in the house).*

*The use of certain drugs is **against the law** (= illegal).*

*It's **against** my **principles** to borrow money (= I do not believe it is right).*

## c)

used to say that something is not allowed by a law or rule:

*There ought to be a law **against** it.*

## 2 AGAINST SOMEBODY IN A GAME

Used to say who someone is competing with or trying to defeat in a game, battle etc:

*Gambotti was injured in last Saturday's game **against** the Lions.*

*We'll be competing **against** the best companies in Europe.*

- 3** AGAINST/OPPOSE used to say who is harmed, threatened, or given a disadvantage:

*violence against elderly people*

*crimes against humanity*

*discrimination against women*

*There had been death threats against prison staff.*

*Your lack of experience could count against you.*

*The regulations tend to work against smaller companies.*

- 4** TOUCH used to say that something touches, hits, or rubs a surface:

*the sound of the rain drumming against my window*

*The car skidded and we could hear the crunch of metal against metal.*

- 5** TOUCH next to and touching an upright surface, especially for support:

*There was a ladder propped up against the wall.*

*The younger policeman was leaning against the bureau with his arms folded.*

- 6** OPPOSITE/FACE in the opposite direction to the movement or flow of something

**OPP**

*sailing against the wind*

*She dived down and swam out strongly against the current.*

- 7** BEHIND seen with something else behind or as a background:

*He could see a line of figures silhouetted against the sky.*

*It is important to know what colours look good against your skin.*

- 8** CONNECTED WITH used to show that you are considering particular events in relation to other events that are happening at the same time:

*The reforms were introduced against a background of social unrest.*

**9 COMPARE** used to say what you are comparing something with:

*The pound has fallen 10% against the dollar.*

*She checked the contents of the box against the list.*

*The cost of the proposed research needs to be balanced against its benefits.*

**10 PROTECT** used to say who or what you are trying to protect someone or something from:

*insurance against accident and sickness*

*a cream to protect against sunburn*

*a vaccine which is effective against pneumonia*

**11** used to say who is said or shown to have done something wrong:  
*He has always emphatically denied the allegations against him.*

*The evidence against you is overwhelming.*

**12 be/come up against somebody/something** PROBLEM

to have to deal with a difficult opponent or problem:

*You see, this is what we're up against – the suppliers just aren't reliable.*

**13 have something against somebody/something** DON'T LIKE

to dislike or disapprove of someone or something:

*I don't have anything against babies. I just don't feel very comfortable with them.*

**Word origin**

**Date:** 1300–1400

**Origin:** *againes* 'against' (11–16 centuries), from *again*