problem

1. [ˈprɒbləm] *n*

  1. проблема, вопрос; задача

    problems of common interest - вопросы, представляющие общий интерес

    problem of unemployment - проблема безработицы

    to solve a problem - разрешить проблему

  2. проблема, сложное дело; трудный случай

    housing problem - жилищная проблема

    start-up problem - проблема, возникающая на начальном этапе (*чего-л.*)

    it is a problem how to make both ends meet - не так-то просто свести концы с концами

  3. *спец.* задача

    trouble-shooting problem - диагностическая задача

    problem book - задачник

2. [ˈprɒbləm] *a*

  1. трудный, вызывающий трудности, проблемы *и т. п.*

    problem child - трудный ребёнок

    problem bank - *амер.* банк, испытывающий финансовые затруднения

  2. *преим. театр.* проблемный

    problem play [novel] - проблемная пьеса [-ый роман]

  3. *вчт.* прикладной

    problem programmer - прикладной программист

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problem

prob·lem [problem problems] noun, adjective *BrE* [ˈprɒbləm] *NAmE* [ˈprɑːbləm]

noun

  1. a thing that is difficult to deal with or to understand

    • **big/major/serious problems**

    • **health/family, etc. problems**

    • **financial/practical/technical problems**

    • to **address/tackle/solve a problem**

    • (especially NAmE) to **fix a problem**

    • the problem of drug abuse

    • If he chooses Mary it's bound to **cause problems** .

    • Let me know if you have any problems.

    • Most students **face the problem** of funding themselves while they are studying.

    • The problem first arose in 2008.

    • Unemployment is a very real problem for graduates now.

    • It's a nice table! **The only problem is (that)** it's too big for our room.

    • Stop worrying about their marriage— it isn't your problem.

    • There's no history of heart problems (= disease connected with the heart) in our family.

    • the magazine's **problem page** (= containing letters about readers' problems and advice about how to solve them)

  2. a question that can be answered by using logical thought or mathematics

    • mathematical problems

    • to find the answer to the problem

    • The teacher set us 50 problems to do.

  <u>Word Origin:</u>

  late Middle English (originally denoting a riddle or a question for academic discussion): from Old French probleme, via Latin from Greek problēma, from proballein **'put forth'**, from pro **'before'** + ballein **'to throw'**.

  <u>Thesaurus:</u>

    problem noun C

    • Unemployment is a real problem for graduates now.

    difficulty • • **issue** • • **trouble** • • **complication** • |especially spoken **the matter** • |usually approving **challenge** •

      (a/an/the) problem/difficulty/trouble/complication/issue/matter **with** sth

      have problems/difficulties/issues/trouble

      cause/avoid problems/difficulties/trouble/complications

      create/bring/run into problems/difficulties/trouble

    Problem or difficulty? To talk about one thing that is difficult to deal with use **problem** ; to talk about more than one thing use either word

    • The problem first arose in 2008.

    • The project has been fraught with problems/difficulties from the start.

  <u>Example Bank:</u>

    • All the anti-depressant does is mask the problem.

    • Depression is a natural feeling if your problems seem intractable.

    • Do you have a problem with her?

    • For years I've tried to overlook this problem.

- Fortunately, it's easy to avoid any potential problems.
- Framing the problem is an important step.
- He believes he may have found a solution to the problem.
- He developed a drinking problem.
- He doesn't really see the problem.
- He doesn't seem to understand my problem.
- He had to undergo surgery to cure the problem with his knee.
- He has been faced with all manner of problems in his new job.
- Her new job had taken her mind off her family problems for a while.
- His teachers say he has an attitude problem.
- I didn't imagine there would be a problem about getting tickets.
- I don't anticipate any future problems in that regard.
- I forgot my problems for a moment.
- I have five problems to do for homework.
- I'm glad you finally admitted your problem.
- If the problem persists you should see a doctor.
- Inadequate resources pose a problem for all members of staff.
- Most people can see the ethical problem with accepting such an offer.
- No one ever asked why or how the problem originated.
- One out of every five people is a problem drinker.
- Our greatest problem is the lack of funds.
- She had serious substance abuse problems with both cocaine and heroin.
- She raised the problem of falling sales at the last meeting.
- Staff shortages cause problems for the organization.
- Success brings its own problems.
- Systemic security problems have been identified.
- The accident poses a terrible problem for the family.
- The basic problem remains the lack of available housing.
- The next meeting will address the problem of obesity.
- The plan has been fraught with problems from the start.
- The problem lies in the lack of communication between managers and staff.
- The rail strike is a problem for all commuters.
- The role of the sun in climate change is still a big unsolved problem.
- The traffic in illegal drugs is a global problem.
- Therein lies the problem.
- These symptoms may indicate a serious problem.
- They blame the problem on the new prescription drug law.
- They created a task force to study this problem.
- They sold their car to ease their financial problems.
- This illustrates another potential problem.
- This kind of activity develops the children's problem-solving skills.
- This underscores the biggest problem with electronic voting.
- Unforeseen problems often arise.
- We had communication problems.
- We need to get to the root of the problem before we can solve it.
- We're faced with a whole host of new problems.
- a new approach to problem drinking
- a problem resulting from technical inadequacy
- an elegant solution to a very complex set of problems
- an important step in battling the terrorist problem
- problems arising from poor ventilation
- solving simple mathematical problems
- the ability to solve simple mathematical problems
- the inherent problems of merging two very different companies
- the problem of poverty
- the problems attributed to capitalism
- the underlying problem that's causing your high blood pressure
- 'But what am I supposed to do now?' 'Don't ask me— it's not my problem/that's your problem.'
- 'Can I pay by credit card?' 'Yes, no problem.'
- If he chooses Mary it's bound to cause problems.
- It's a nice table. The only problem is it's too big for the room.
- Most students face the problem of funding themselves while they study.
- Stop worrying about their marriage— it isn't your problem.
- There's no history of heart problems in our family.
- This is one of the great problems of cosmology: where did the overall structure of the universe come from?
- a mathematical/philosophical problem

Idioms: ↑have a problem with something ▪ ↑it's not my problem ▪ ↑no problem ▪ ↑that's her problem ▪ ↑what's your problem?

adjective only before noun

causing problems for other people
  • She was a **problem child** , always in trouble with the police.

Word Origin:
late Middle English (originally denoting a riddle or a question for academic discussion): from Old French probleme, via Latin from Greek problēma, from proballein **'put forth'**, from pro **'before'** + ballein **'to throw'**.

See also: ↑not a problem

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problem

prob▯lem **S1** **W1** /ˈprɒbləm $ ˈprɑ▯/- *BrE*▯ *AmE*▯ *noun* [countable]
  [Date: 1300-1400; Language: French; Origin: problème, from Latin problema, from Greek, *'something thrown forward'*, from proballein *'to throw forward'*]

1. **DIFFICULTY** a situation that causes difficulties:
    She was older than me, but that wasn't really a problem.
  problem of
    The problem of street crime is getting worse every year.
  problem with
    I've been having a few problems with my car.

  REGISTER
  In writing, people sometimes prefer to use the word **issue** rather than **problem** , as it sounds more neutral and less negative:
    ▪ the issue of race relations

2. something wrong with your health or with part of your body
  health problem/problem with your health
    Does she have any long-term health problems?
  back/heart/kidney etc problem
    If you have back problems you should avoid lifting heavy objects.
  hearing problem
    Many people with hearing problems try to hide their condition.
  weight problem
    She refuses to admit to herself that she has a weight problem.
  emotional/psychological problem
    Is this a sign of some kind of deeper psychological problem?

3. **QUESTION** a question for which you have to find the right answer, using mathematics or careful thought:
    She gave us 20 mathematical problems to solve.

4. **no problem** *spoken*
  a) used to say that you are happy to do something or for someone else to do something:
    'Can I bring a friend?' 'Sure, no problem.'
  b) used after someone has said thank you or said that they are sorry:
    'Thanks for all your help.' 'No problem!'

5. **have no problem (in) doing something** to do something easily:
    I've had no problem recruiting staff.

6. **the (only) problem is (that) ...** *spoken* used before saying what the main difficulty in a situation is:
    The problem is, there isn't enough time.

7. **that's your/his etc problem** *spoken* used to say rudely that someone else is responsible for dealing with a situation, not you:
    If you miss the train, that's your problem.

8. **it's/that's not my problem** *spoken* used to say rudely that you are not responsible for dealing with a particular problem and are not willing to help:
    'We've got a serious staffing shortage.' 'That's not my problem.'

9. **What's your/his etc problem?** *spoken informal* used when you think that someone is behaving in a way that is unreasonable

10. **Do you have a problem with that?** *spoken informal* used to ask someone why they seem to disagree with you, in a way that shows that you are annoyed

11. **problem child/family/drinker etc** a child etc whose behaviour causes problems for other people
    • • •

COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 1)
  ■**verbs**
    ▪ **have a problem** We saw water rushing in and realised we had a serious problem.
    ▪ **cause/create a problem** The building's lack of parking space could cause problems.
    ▪ **present/pose a problem** *(=cause it or make it have to be considered)* A shortage of trained nurses is posing major problems.
    ▪ **deal with/sort out a problem** The state has failed to deal with the problem of violence against women.
    ▪ **tackle/address a problem** *(=deal with it)* There is more than one way to tackle this problem.
    ▪ **solve/resolve a problem** (*also* **fix a problem** *informal*) He solved his financial problems by selling his car.
    ▪ **overcome a problem** We try to help families overcome housing problems.
    ▪ **face a problem** Terrorism is possibly the most important problem facing western countries.
    ▪ **raise a problem** *(=mention it, so that people can discuss it)* He also raised the problem of noise from planes taking off and landing.
    ▪ **encounter/experience a problem** You shouldn't encounter any further problems.
    ▪ **a problem arises/occurs** (*also* **a problem comes up**) *(=it happens)* Problems may arise when the family wants to move

house.

- **compound/exacerbate a problem** *formal (=make it worse)* The country's economic problems are compounded by its ageing population.
- **the problem lies in/with something** The problem lies in the design of the rocket.

■ **ADJECTIVES/NOUN + problem**

- **big/major/serious** The school's biggest problem is a shortage of cash.
- **little/small/minor** Old cars often develop minor engine problems.
- **the main problem** The main problem for the climbers was lack of sleep.
- **a real problem** They quickly found that their real problem lay with marketing.
- **a difficult problem** Does the team have the skills to tackle these difficult problems?
- **a thorny/knotty problem** *(=difficult)* He still faced the thorny problem of finding a way out of the jungle.
- **a fundamental problem** *(=relating to the most basic and important parts of something)* The government has done little to solve the fundamental problems of poverty and crime.
- **a pressing problem** *(=one that needs to be dealt with very soon)* Lack of clean drinking water is the most pressing problem facing the refugees.
- **personal problems** *(=relating to your private life and relationships)* My daughter found it hard to talk about her personal problems.
- **family problems** She would never discuss family problems with outsiders.
- **financial /money problems** Our financial problems are over.
- **economic problems** He argued that the government was to blame for the country's economic problems.
- **a technical problem** The delay was caused by technical problems.
- **a practical problem** Burying a pet can present practical problems.
- **an environmental problem** Air pollution is our most serious environmental problem.

■ **COMMON ERRORS**

► It is more usual to say **a big problem**, **a major problem** or **a serious problem**, instead of saying *'an important problem'*.
• • •

COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 2)

■ **ADJECTIVES/NOUN + problem**

- **a health /medical problem** Have you ever suffered from any of these health problems?
- **a back/heart/kidney etc problem** He was born with heart problems.
- **a hearing problem** There are special telephones for people with hearing problems.
- **a weight problem** *(=the problem of being too fat)* Patients with weight problems were put on a strict diet.
- **psychological problems** (*also* **mental health problems**) She is being treated for psychological problems at a mental hospital in Oxford.
- **emotional problems** He suffers from depression and other emotional problems.
- **behavioural problems** Many of these children have behavioural problems.
- **a serious/major problem** Lifting things carelessly can lead to serious back problems.
- **a minor problem** She has had some minor medical problems.

■ **verbs**

- **have a problem** He's always had a weight problem.
- **suffer (from) a problem** The patient began to suffer breathing problems.
    • • •

THESAURUS

- **setback** a problem that stops you from making progress: The space program suffered a major setback when the space shuttle, Discovery, exploded.
- **snag** *informal* a problem, especially one that you had not expected: There's a snag – I don't have his number.
- **hitch** a small problem that delays or prevents something: There have been a few last-minute hitches.
- **trouble** when something does not work in the way it should: The plane developed engine trouble.
- **hassle** *spoken* a situation that is annoying because it causes problems: Just trying to store all this stuff is a hassle.

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problem

12500 **158**MCW

15000 **180**COCA

RANGE: **1k** PROBLEM ²³¹⁸⁰³

problem ¹²⁶⁵³⁶

problems ¹⁰⁰⁶²²

problematic ⁴⁶⁴⁵

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

₅₄₈₉₀**305**¹²⁶¹⁸² *nn1*

₁₇₉**48476**²³⁶ *nnu*

₇₂**85737**⁷⁹ *jj*

₁₀**259262**¹⁰ *pph1*

₆**320253**⁷ *cc*

₂**370195**⁶ *np1*

₄**425496**⁴ *ii*