

difficult[ˈdɪfɪk(ə)lt] *a*

- 1) трудный; тяжёлый
difficult ascent [task, text] - трудное восхождение [задание, -ый текст]
difficult ground - **воен.** труднопроходимая местность
difficult of access - неприступный; труднодоступный
it is difficult to imagine - трудно вообразить
the most difficult part is done - самое трудное (уже) сделано /позади/
this question is difficult to answer - на этот вопрос трудно /нелегко/ ответить
there's nothing very difficult about it - в этом нет ничего трудного
I find it difficult to learn foreign languages, it is difficult for me to learn foreign languages - мне трудно учить иностранные языки
- 2) тяжёлый, затруднительный, неприятный
difficult situation - затруднительное/неприятное/ положение
this loss has made things difficult for us - эта потеря очень осложнила /усложнила/ нашу жизнь
2. трудный, упрямый; неуживчивый
difficult child [disposition] - трудный ребёнок [тяжёлый характер]
he is difficult to please - ему не угодишь

difficult

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

dif-fi-cult *BrE* [ˈdɪfɪkəlt] ^ˈ *NAmE* [ˈdɪfɪkəlt] ^ˈ **adjective****1. ~ (for sb) (to do sth)** not easy; needing effort or skill to do or to understand

- a difficult problem/task/exam
- **It's difficult** for them to get here much before seven.
- It's really difficult to read your writing.
- Your writing is really difficult to read.
- She **finds it** very **difficult** to get up early.

2. full of problems; causing a lot of trouble

- to be in a **difficult position/situation**
- My boss is **making life** very **difficult** for me.
- 13 is a difficult age.

3. (of people) not easy to please; not helpful**Syn:** ↑awkward

- a difficult child/customer/boss
- Don't pay any attention to her— she's just being difficult.

see have a (hard/difficult) job doing/to do sth **at** ↑job, make life difficult **at** ↑lifeWord Origin:

late Middle English: back-formation from ↑difficulty.

Thesaurus:**difficult** [difficult] **adj.**

- 1.**
 - The exam questions were too difficult for her.
 - hard** • **demanding** • **taxing** • **testing** • |**approving** **challenging** •

Opp: easy, **Opp:** simpledifficult/hard/demanding/taxing/challenging **for sb**difficult/hard to **do/believe /see/tell/say** (sth)a difficult/hard/demanding/taxing/testing/challenging **time/week/year**a difficult/hard/demanding/challenging **task/target****Difficult or hard?** **Hard** is slightly less formal than **difficult**. It is used especially in the structure **hard to believe /say/find, etc.**

- 2.**
 - My boss was making life difficult for me.
 - tough** • **hard** • **bad** • **rough** • **adverse** • |**formal** **disadvantageous** • |**BrE, formal** **unfavourable** • |**AmE, formal** **unfavorable** •

Opp: easydifficult/tough/hard/bad/disadvantageous/unfavourable **for sb**a/an difficult/tough/hard/bad/rough/unfavourable **situation**difficult/tough/hard/bad/rough/adverse/unfavourable **conditions**a/an difficult/hard/bad/adverse/disadvantageous/unfavourable **position**

- 3.**
 - How do you deal with difficult customers?
 - awkward** • **obstructive** • **uncooperative** • **perverse** • **unhelpful** •
 - be** difficult/awkward **about** sth
 - a/an difficult/awkward/uncooperative **child**
 - a/an difficult/awkward **customer**

Synonyms:**difficult****hard** • **challenging** • **demanding** • **taxing**

These words all describe sth that is not easy and requires a lot of effort or skill to do.

difficult • not easy; needing effort or skill to do or understand: ▫ The exam questions were quite difficult. ◊ ▫ It is difficult for young people to find jobs around here.

hard • not easy; needing effort or skill to do or understand: ▫ I always found languages quite hard at school. ◊ ▫ It was one of the hardest things I ever did.

difficult or hard?

Hard is slightly less formal than **difficult**. It is used particularly in the structure **hard to believe/say/find/take, etc.**, although **difficult** can also be used in any of these examples.

challenging • (approving) difficult in an interesting way that tests your ability.

demanding • difficult to do or deal with and needing a lot of effort, skill or patience: ▫ It is a technically demanding piece of music to play.

taxing • (often used in negative statements) difficult to do and needing a lot of mental or physical effort ▫ This shouldn't be too taxing for you.

difficult/hard/challenging/demanding/taxing for sb

difficult/hard to do sth

physically difficult/hard/challenging/demanding/taxing

technically difficult/challenging/demanding

mentally/intellectually challenging/demanding/taxing

Example Bank:

- Her disability made taking care of the home and raising a family doubly difficult.
- It is getting more and more difficult to find a job.
- The fog made driving very difficult.
- Don't pay any attention to her— she's just being difficult.
- He finds French pronunciation quite difficult.
- His presence there put me in a very difficult position.
- I was given the difficult task of informing the girl's parents of her disappearance.
- I'd had a difficult time, and needed a break.
- It can be difficult for young people to find jobs around here.
- It's really difficult to read your writing.
- Roger was always a difficult child.
- Senior lawyers handle the most difficult cases.
- The application process is notoriously difficult.
- The exam questions were quite difficult.
- The next few months were quite difficult.
- There was a great deal of difficult terrain to be covered.
- They had to set up camp in extremely difficult conditions.
- We didn't realize how difficult it was going to be.
- We have training in how to deal with difficult customers.
- What's the most difficult personal situation you've ever been in?

difficult

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

difficult **S1 W1** /'dɪfɪkəlt/ **BrE** " **AmE** " adjective

[Date: 1300-1400; Origin: difficulty]

1. hard to do, understand, or deal with **OPP** easy:

- " a difficult question
- " an immensely difficult task
- " Was the exam very difficult?
- " It's difficult to see how more savings can be made.

difficult (for somebody) to understand/find/obtain etc

- " That's rather difficult for me to explain.
- " He's finding it difficult to get a job.

2. involving a lot of problems and causing a lot of trouble or worry:

- " a difficult situation
- " Things are a bit difficult at home at the moment.
- " There could be difficult times ahead.

make life/things difficult for somebody (=cause problems for someone)

- " She's doing everything she can to make life difficult for him.

3. someone who is difficult never seems pleased or satisfied **SYN** awkward :

- " Don't be so difficult!
- " a difficult customer

• • •

THESAURUS

- **difficult** not easy to do, understand, or deal with: a difficult question | The homework was really difficult. | It is difficult to see how peace can be achieved in the region.
- **hard** difficult. **Hard** is less formal than **difficult** and is very common in spoken English: The test was really hard. | a hard decision | It was hard to forgive him.
- **tough** very difficult, because you have to use a lot of effort, or because it affects you emotionally: a tough race | Doctors have to make tough decisions about who to treat first. | The team faces some tough competition. | Life is tough sometimes.

- **tricky** difficult because it is complicated and full of problems: She had helped him out of a tricky situation. | Merging the two companies was bound to be tricky.
- **awkward** rather difficult to deal with – used especially when something could be embarrassing: You’ve put me in a very awkward position. | It was getting dark and foggy, which made the rescue even more awkward.
- **challenging** difficult in an interesting or enjoyable way: I wanted a job that was more challenging. | a challenging piece of music
- **demanding** difficult and tiring, because it takes a lot of effort: Being a nurse in a busy hospital is a demanding job. | it can be very demanding bringing up young children.
- **daunting** if something seems daunting, you think that it will be difficult and you do not feel confident about being able to do it: a daunting challenge | The task seemed a little daunting at first.
- **delicate** needing to be dealt with carefully or sensitively, especially in order to avoid offending people or causing problems: This is a very delicate subject, and it can be difficult to talk about it with your parents. | He thanked me for the way in which this delicate matter had been handled.

■ COLLOCATIONS CHECK

- **difficult** question/decision/situation/problem etc
- **hard** question/decision/test
- **tough** question/decision/job/game/race
- **tricky** question/situation/position/moment
- **awkward** question/situation/position/moment
- **challenging** job
- **demanding** work/schedule/course
- **daunting** task/challenge/prospect
- **delicate** subject/matter/issue

difficult

Freakuency Pack

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15000 **539**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** DIFFICULT ⁹⁰⁰¹²

difficult ⁶⁶⁶⁹⁰

difficulties ¹⁰¹²⁰

difficulty ¹³²⁰²

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

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