

poor1. [pʊə] *n* (the poor) *собир.*

бедные, бедняки, беднота; неимущие
the poor and the rich - бедные и богатые

2. [pʊə] *a*

1. бедный, неимущий, малоимущий
poor peasant - крестьянин-бедняк
poor people - бедные /неимущие/ люди

2. 1) бедный, несчастный

poor fellow - бедняга, несчастный
poor beggar /creature, soul, thing/ - бедняга, бедняжка; бедняжечка
poor me! - горе мне!

2) *диал.* покойный, умерший

my poor old mother - моя покойная мать

3. 1) *часто ирон., шутл.* скромный; жалкий, ничтожный

in my poor opinion - по моему скромному мнению
to the best of my poor abilities - по мере моих скромных сил
my poor retirement - моя скромная уединённая жизнь

2) незначительный, небольшой, жалкий

poor reception - плохой /убогий/ приём [*см. тж.* 5, 1)]
a poor ten shillings - жалкие десять шиллингов
a poor chance for recovery - слабая надежда на выздоровление
the village is but poor five miles from here - деревня находится всего на расстоянии каких-нибудь пяти миль отсюда

4. 1) недостаточный, скудный; плохой

poor crop - плохой /низкий/ урожай
poor income - скудные /ничтожные/ доходы
poor supply - недостаточное /плохое/ снабжение

2) (in) бедный, скудный (в каком-л. отношении)

poor in coal - с небольшими /с ничтожными/ запасами угля
he became poorer in ideas - мысль его оскудела

5. 1) плохой, низкого качества; скверный

poor food - плохая /скверная/ пища
poor butter - некачественное масло
poor ore - *горн.* бедная руда
poor concrete - *стр.* тощая бетонная смесь
poor reception - *радио, тлев.* плохой приём [*см. тж.* 3, 2)]
poor road - скверная дорога; дорога в плохом состоянии
poor blood - дурная кровь
goods of poor quality - товары низкого качества
to have a poor opinion of smb. - быть о ком-л. плохого мнения

2) плохой, слабый

poor speaker [player] - слабый оратор [игрок]
to be poor at mathematics - быть слабым в математике
that is a poor consolation - это слабое утешение
he's a poor driver - он плохо водит машину

3) неприятный, плохой, не доставляющий удовольствия

we had a poor time - мы плохо провели время

6. дурной, низкий, неблагородный

poor form /sort/ of conduct - дурное /неприличное/ поведение

7. 1) неплодородный (о почве)

2) непитательный (о продуктах)

8. 1) слабый, плохой

poor health - слабое здоровье
in poor condition - в плохом состоянии (о здоровье)

2) худой, тощий (о скоте)

poor horse - слабая /тощая/ лошадь

9. поношенный, износившийся (об одежде)

◇ Poor Richard - Бедный Ричард (*псевдоним В. Франклина*)
it's a poor heart that never rejoices - ≅ заслуживает жалости тот, кто никогда не знает радости
poor as a church mouse - беден как церковная мышь /крыса/
poor as Job - беден как Иов
a /the/ poor relation - кто-л. или что-л. неполноценное, заслуживающее жалости; ≅ бедный родственник
to cut a poor figure - производить жалкое впечатление; плохо выглядеть

poor

poor [poʊr] **poorer** [ˈpoʊrər] **poorest** [ˈpoʊrɪst] *BrE* [pɔːr] *NAmE* [pɔːr] *BrE* [pʊə(r)]

NAmE [pʊr] **adjective** (poor-er, poor-est)

HAVING LITTLE MONEY

1. having very little money; not having enough money for basic needs

- They were too poor to buy shoes for the kids.
- We aim to help the poorest families.
- It's among the poorer countries of the world.

Opp: ↑rich

2. the poor noun plural people who have very little money

- They provided food and shelter for the poor.

Opp: ↑rich

UNFORTUNATE

3. only before noun deserving pity and sympathy

- Have you heard about **poor old** Harry? His wife's left him.
- It's hungry—the poor little thing.
- 'I have stacks of homework to do.' 'Oh, **you poor thing**.'

NOT GOOD

4. not good; of a quality that is low or lower than expected

- the party's poor performance in the election
- to be in poor health
- It was raining heavily and visibility was poor.
- poor food/light/soil
- to have a poor opinion of sb (= to not think well of sb)

5. (of a person) not good or skilled at sth

- a poor swimmer
- a poor judge of character
- She's a good teacher but a poor manager.
- a poor sailor (= sb who easily gets sick at sea)

HAVING LITTLE OF STH

6. ~ in sth having very small amounts of sth

- a country poor in natural resources
- soil poor in nutrients

Opp: ↑rich

more at give a good/poor account of yourself **at** ↑account n.

Idioms: a poor second/third ▪ ↑poor man's somebody

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old French *poure*, from Latin *pauper*.

Thesaurus:

poor **adj.**

1.

- They were too poor to buy shoes for the kids.

needy • • **impoverished** • • **deprived** • • **disadvantaged** • • **destitute** • |informal **hard up** • • **broke** • |literary **penniless** •

Opp: rich, **Opp:** wealthy, **Opp:** affluent

poor/needful/impoverished/deprived/disadvantaged/destitute/hard up **people /families**

poor/needful/impoverished/deprived/disadvantaged/destitute **children**

poor/needful/impoverished/deprived/disadvantaged **groups/areas**

a/an poor/impoverished/deprived/disadvantaged **background**

Which word? Poor is the most general of these words. **Needy** is used to describe groups of people, not individuals.

Impoverished is used to talk about poor countries and their people. To talk about poor areas in rich countries use **deprived**.

2.

- The work was of poor quality.

bad • • **cheap** • • **low** • • **second-rate** • • **inferior** • |informal **dismal** • |BrE, informal **hopeless** • |BrE, taboo, slang **crap** • • **shit** • |AmE, taboo, slang **crappy** • • **shitty** •

Opp: fine

a/an poor/bad/cheap/second-rate/inferior **copy/imitation**

poor/bad/low/second-rate/inferior **quality**

a/an poor/bad/inferior/dismal/crap/shit/crappy/shitty **performance**

Poor or bad? Bad is used more in informal spoken English; **poor** is more frequent in written English. Some words do not collocate with both:

- a poor standard of living

✗ a bad standard of living:

- I don't think it's a bad school.

✗ I don't think it's a poor school.

3.

- He's a good teacher but a poor manager.

incompetent • • **inept** • • **inadequate** • |especially spoken **bad** • |informal **useless** • • **rotten** •

Opp: good

poor/inept/bad/useless/rotten at sth

a poor/incompetent/bad/useless/rotten **teacher/driver**

Synonyms:

poor

disadvantaged • needy • impoverished • deprived • penniless • hard up

These words all describe sb who has very little or no money and therefore cannot satisfy their basic needs.

poor • having very little money; not having enough money for basic needs: ▫ They were too poor to buy shoes for the kids.

disadvantaged • having less money and fewer opportunities than most people in society: ▫ socially disadvantaged sections of the community

needy • poor: ▫ It's a charity that provides help for needy children.

impoverished • (journalism) poor: ▫ Thousands of impoverished peasants are desperate to move to the cities.

deprived • [usually before noun] without enough food, education, and all the things that are necessary for people to live a happy and comfortable life

poor, needy, impoverished or deprived?

Poor is the most general of these words and can be used to describe yourself, another individual person, people as a group, or a country or an area. **Needy** is mostly used to describe people considered as a group: it is not used to talk about yourself or individual people: ▫ poor/needy children/families ◊ They were too needy to buy shoes for the kids. **Impoverished** is used, especially in journalism, to talk about poor countries and the people who live there. To talk about poor areas in rich countries, use **deprived**.

penniless • (literary) having no money; very poor: ▫ He died penniless in Paris.

hard up • (informal) having very little money, especially for a short period of time: ▫ I was always hard up as a student.

poor/disadvantaged/needy/impoverished/deprived/penniless/hard-up **people/families**

poor/disadvantaged/needy/impoverished/deprived **areas**

poor/disadvantaged/impoverished **countries**

a(n) poor/disadvantaged/impoverished/deprived **background**

Example Bank:

- He was getting richer and richer as they got poorer and poorer.
- The work was of an extremely poor standard.
- These crops are poor in nutrients.
- They remained poor all their lives.
- I may be dirt poor, but I have my pride.
- I'm afraid I'm rather a poor sailor.
- It's among the poorer countries of the world.
- On the whole he had a poor opinion of human nature.
- She's a good teacher but a poor manager.
- She's been in poor health for some time now.
- Such a poor swimmer would not survive in that water for long.
- They always treated me like a poor relation.
- We discussed the party's poor performance in the election.
- We tried to keep working in the poor light.

poor

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

poor **S1 W1** /pʊə/\$ pʊr/ **BrE** " **AmE** " **adjective** (comparative **poorer**, superlative **poorest**)

[Date: 1100-1200; Language: Old French; Origin: povre, from Latin pauper]

1. NO MONEY

a) having very little money and not many possessions **OPP rich:**

" Her family were so poor they couldn't afford to buy her new clothes.

" an area where poor people lived

" one of the poorest countries in the world

" a poor part of Chicago (=where a lot of poor people live)

" My grandparents grew up dirt poor (=very poor).

desperately/extremely poor

" Many of the families are desperately poor.

b) the poor [plural] people who are poor:

" It's the government's responsibility to help the poor.

the rural/urban/working poor

" tax relief for the working poor

2. NOT GOOD not as good as it could be or should be:

" The soil in this area is very poor.

" poor rates of pay

" He blames himself for the team's poor performance.

of poor quality (=not made well or not made of good materials)

" The jacket was of very poor quality.

poor hearing/eyesight/memory

" Her hearing is poor, so speak fairly loudly.

make/do a poor job of doing something

The builders did a really poor job of fixing our roof.

3. **SYMPATHY** [only before noun] *spoken* used to show sympathy for someone because they are so unlucky, unhappy etc:

- " Poor kid, he's had a rough day.
- " You poor thing, you've had a hard time of it, haven't you?
- " Poor old Ted was sick for weeks.

4. **NOT GOOD AT SOMETHING** not good at doing something:

- " a poor public speaker

poor at

- " He's poor at sports.

5. **HEALTH** someone whose health is poor is ill or weak for a long period of time:

- " My parents are both in rather poor health.

6. **poor in something** lacking something that is needed:

- " The country is poor in natural resources.

7. **a poor second/third etc** the act of finishing a race, competition etc a long way behind the person ahead of you:

- " McLean won easily, and Benson was a poor second.

come (in) a poor second/third etc *British English*:

- " The Socialists came a poor second with 26.5% of the vote.

8. **the poor man's somebody** used to say that someone is like a very famous performer, writer etc but is not as good as they are:

- " He was the poor man's Elvis Presley.

9. **the poor man's something** used to say that something can be used for the same purpose as something else, and is much cheaper:

- " Herring is the poor man's salmon.

10. **poor relation** *British English* someone or something that is not treated as well as other members of a group or is much less successful than they are

poor relation of

- " Theatre musicians tend to be the poor relations of the musical profession.

⇒ **be in bad/poor taste** at ↑*taste*¹(6), ⇒ ↑*poorly*

• • •

COLLOCATIONS

■ adverbs

- **extremely poor** His parents were extremely poor.
- **desperately poor** (=so poor that it causes great suffering) Half the population remains desperately poor.
- **dirt poor** *American English informal* (=extremely poor) We were dirt poor back then.

■ adjectives

- **the rural poor** (=poor people who live in the countryside) Difficult economic conditions have driven millions of the rural poor to cities.
- **the urban poor** (=poor people who live in towns and cities) The condition of the urban poor could no longer be ignored.
- **the working poor** (=poor people who have jobs, rather than unemployed people) These tax-cut proposals are targeted at the working poor.

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THESAURUS

- **poor** having very little money and not many possessions – used about people or places: Many families were too poor to pay for education. | poor countries
- **hard up/broke** (also **skint** *British English*) [not before noun] *informal* having very little money, especially for a short period of time. **Skint** is more informal than the other words: I'm a bit hard up at the moment | We were so broke we couldn't afford to go out to the cinema.
- **developing** [only before noun] a developing country is poor and has very little industry: The disease is found mainly in developing countries. | the developing world
- **deprived** [usually before noun] much poorer than other people in a country, and not having the things that are necessary for a comfortable or happy life – used about people and areas: The charity works with deprived children in the inner city. | one of the most deprived areas of London
- **disadvantaged** *especially written* used about groups of people in society who have much less chance of being successful because they are poor: An increase in the minimum wage would help the most disadvantaged Americans.
- **needy** having very little money, and so needing help – used about groups of people: More help should be given to needy families. | We offer scholarships for needy students.
- **destitute** *especially written* having no money or possessions and nowhere to live – used when someone is in a very bad situation: Her family was left destitute after her father died. | destitute refugees
- **impoverished** *formal* impoverished people and places are very poor: out-of-work miners and their impoverished families | The children come from impoverished neighbourhoods. | one of the world's most impoverished countries
- **poverty-stricken** *written* extremely poor: poverty-stricken areas | They were left poverty-stricken.
- **penniless** *especially literary* having no money: She died penniless. | a penniless student

■ COLLOCATIONS CHECK

- **deprived** area/children/homes/background
- **disadvantaged** groups/children/students/background
- **needy** children/students/families
- **impoverished** families/areas/countries
- **poverty-stricken** areas/countries/people

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COCA 500k Unlemmatized

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