

ruthless['ru:θlis] *a*

безжалостный, жестокий

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

ruthless**ruth-less** *BrE* ['ruθləʃ] *NAme* ['ruθləʃ] *adjective* (disapproving)

(of people or their behaviour) hard and cruel; determined to get what you want and not caring if you hurt other people

- a ruthless dictator
- The way she behaved towards him was utterly ruthless.
- He has a ruthless determination to succeed.
- We'll have to be ruthless if we want to make this company more efficient.

Derived Words ↑ruthlessly ▪ ↑ruthlessnessWord Origin:

Middle English: from ruth 'feeling of pity, distress or grief' + ↑-less.

Thesaurus:**ruthless** [**ruthless ruthlessly ruthlessness**] *adj.* (usually disapproving)

• He's a violent, ruthless man who will stop at nothing.

cruel • • **hard** • • **callous** • • **heartless** • • **coldblooded** • • **brutal** • |especially written **merciless** •**Opp:** merciful, **Opp:** compassionatea ruthless/cruel/hard/callous/heartless **man/woman**a ruthless/coldblooded/merciless **attack**Example Bank:

- She was pretty ruthless about sacking people.
- He's a violent, ruthless man who will stop at nothing.
- Like all great survivors she has a ruthless streak.
- She was ruthless about chucking out weaklings.
- The way she behaved to him was utterly ruthless.
- We'll have to be ruthless if we want to make this company more efficient.

ruthless

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

ruth-less /'ruθləʃ *BrE* " *AmE* " *adjective*[**Date:** 1300-1400; **Origin:** ruth 'pity' (12-19 centuries), from rue]

1. so determined to get what you want that you do not care if you have to hurt other people in order to do it:

- " a ruthless dictator
- " They have shown a ruthless disregard for basic human rights.

2. determined and firm when making unpleasant decisions:

- " He ran the company with ruthless efficiency.
- " Throw away clothes you don't wear – be ruthless.

—**ruthlessly** *adverb*:

- " The uprising was ruthlessly suppressed.

—**ruthlessness** *noun* [uncountable]

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THESAURUS

- **determined** if you are determined to do something, you have decided that you are definitely going to do it, and you will not let anything stop you. **Determined** is also used about someone's character, when they usually behave in this way: I was determined to be a doctor. | She's a very determined woman.
- **stubborn** determined not to change what you are doing, especially when other people think you are behaving in an unreasonable way. **Stubborn** is often used when you disapprove of someone. It is also sometimes used when you admire them: I wish you would stop being so stubborn! | Churchill's stubborn refusal to surrender
- **single-minded** someone who is single-minded works very hard in order to achieve one particular thing, and thinks that everything else is much less important: During a war, a leader must be single-minded and, if necessary, ruthless. | her single-minded pursuit of power
- **tough** /tʌf/ determined to succeed, even if a situation is difficult or frightening: In competitive sports, it is as important to be mentally tough as it is to be physically fit. | Gorelick is known as a tough manager.
- **firm** showing by your behaviour that you are determined not to change your mind, especially when you are telling someone what to do: What this country needs is firm leadership. | You have to be firm with young children.
- **feisty** determined and full of energy, and not afraid to say what you think and argue with people - used especially when you admire this person. **Feisty** is often used about women: In the film she plays a feisty young woman who is smarter than all the men put together. | a feisty kid with a mind of his own | the city's feisty mayor
- **headstrong** determined to do what you want, without listening to other people's advice or thinking about the results of your actions - used especially about young people: Her sister was headstrong and impulsive, and made a point of going out whenever and wherever she liked.
- **resolute** *formal* doing something in a very determined way because you have very strong beliefs, aims etc: the soldiers' resolute defence of the town
- **tenacious** *formal* determined and refusing to give up: McTaggart was seen by many in the environment movement as a tenacious hero. | his tenacious grip on power

- **dogged** [only before noun] dogged behaviour shows that you are very determined and that you will not give up - used especially in the following phrases: **dogged determination/persistence/resistance/refusal**: The team played with dogged determination. | his dogged refusal to admit defeat | the dogged persistence of the defenders
- **persistent** continuing to do something, although this is difficult, or other people warn you not to do it: If you want to get a job, you have to be persistent. Don't give up.
- **strong-willed** always very determined to do what you want to do, even if other people think it is not a good idea to do it: She has always been a strong-willed child.
- **ruthless** /'ruθləs someone who is ruthless is so determined to get what they want, that they do not care if they harm other people: a ruthless dictator | He was ruthless in his ambition.
- **mean business** to be determined to do something and show other people that you are determined to do it, even if it involves harming someone: The one-day strike proved that the union meant business.

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