

**despise**

[dis'paiz] *n*  
 презирать, ни во что не ставить  
 this is not to be despised - этого нельзя не принять во внимание

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**despise**

**des·pise** [despise despises despised despising] *BrE* [dɪ'spaɪz] <sup>ˈ</sup> *NAmE* [dɪ'spaɪz] <sup>ˈ</sup> **verb ~ sb/sth**

(not used in the progressive tenses) to dislike and have no respect for sb/sth

- She despised gossip in any form.
- He despised himself for being so cowardly.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	despise
	<i>BrE</i> /dɪ 'spaɪz/
	<i>NAmE</i> /dɪ 'spaɪz/
he / she / it	despises
	<i>BrE</i> /dɪ 'spaɪzɪz/
	<i>NAmE</i> /dɪ 'spaɪzɪz/
past simple, past participle	despised
	<i>BrE</i> /dɪ 'spaɪzd/
	<i>NAmE</i> /dɪ 'spaɪzd/

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old French **despire**, from Latin **despicere**, from **de-** 'down' + **specere** 'look at'.

Synonyms:

**hate**

dislike • can't stand • despise • can't bear • loathe • detest

These words all mean to have a strong feeling of dislike for sb/sth.

**hate** • to have a strong feeling of dislike for sb/sth. Although **hate** is generally a very strong verb, it is also commonly used in spoken or informal English to talk about people or things that you dislike in a less important way, for example a particular type of food: ▪ He hates violence in any form. ◊▪ I've always hated cabbage.

**dislike** • (rather formal) to not like sb/sth. **Dislike** is a rather formal word; it is less formal, and more usual, to say that you **don't like** sb/sth, especially in spoken English: ▪ I don't like it when you phone me so late at night.

**can't stand** • (rather informal) used to emphasize that you really do not like sb/sth: ▪ I can't stand his brother. ◊▪ She couldn't stand being kept waiting.

**despise** • to dislike and have no respect for sb/sth: ▪ He despised himself for being so cowardly.

**can't bear** • used to say that you dislike sth so much that you cannot accept or deal with it: ▪ I can't bear having cats in the house.

**can't stand or can't bear?**

In many cases you can use either word, but **can't bear** is slightly stronger and slightly more formal than **can't stand**.

**loathe** • to hate sb/sth very much: ▪ They loathe each other.

**Loathe** is generally an even stronger verb than **hate**, but it can also be used more informally to talk about less important things, meaning 'really don't like': ▪ Whether you love or loathe their music, you can't deny their talent.

**detest** • (rather formal) to hate sb/sth very much: ▪ They absolutely detest each other.

I hate/dislike/can't stand/can't bear/loathe/detest **doing sth.**

I hate/can't bear **to do sth.**

I hate/dislike/can't stand/can't bear **it when...**

I **really** hate/dislike/can't stand/despise/can't bear/detest sb/sth

I **absolutely** hate/can't stand/loathe/detest sb/sth

Example Bank:

- She thoroughly despised him for his weakness.
- I don't know why they despise me so much.

**despise**

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

**de·spise** /dɪ'spaɪz/ *BrE* <sup>ˈ</sup> *AmE* <sup>ˈ</sup> **verb [transitive not in progressive]**

[Date: 1200-1300; Language: Old French; Origin: despise, from Latin despiciere 'to look down on', from specere 'to look']

to dislike and have a low opinion of someone or something:

▪ She despised her neighbours.

• • •

**THESAURUS**

- **hate** *verb [transitive not in progressive]* to dislike someone or something very much: Billy hated his stepfather. | He hated the fact that his wife was more successful than he was. | She hates people being late.
- **can't stand/can't bear** to hate someone or something. **Can't stand** is less formal than **hate**, and is very common in everyday English: She's OK, but I can't stand her husband. | He couldn't bear the thought of life without Nicole. | She can't stand being on her own.
- **loathe** /ləʊð \$ loʊð//**detest** *verb [transitive not in progressive]* to hate something or someone very much. **Loathe** and **detest**

are a little more formal than **hate**: He loathed housework. | Greg had detested his brother for as long as he could remember. | She evidently loathes her ex-husband.

▪ **despise** *verb* [transitive not in progressive] to hate someone or something very much and have no respect for them: He despised the man and could never forgive him for what he had done. | They despised the wealth and consumerism of the West.

▪ **abhor** /əb'ho:/\$ əb'ho:ræb-/ *verb* [transitive not in progressive] *formal* to hate something because you think it is morally wrong: He abhorred violence. | We abhor racism in any form.

## despise

Freakuency Pack

12500 **9052**<sup>MCW</sup>

15000 **6039**<sup>COCA</sup>

RANGE: **7k** DESPISE <sup>2142</sup>

despise <sup>698</sup>

despises <sup>191</sup>

despised <sup>1171</sup>

despising <sup>82</sup>

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

376 **35522**<sup>414</sup> *vv0*

268 **43843**<sup>284</sup> *vvi*