

best**1. [best] n**

1. самое лучшее, высшая степень (чего-л.)

2. выходное платье

Sunday best - праздничное /лучшее/ платье

3. лучшие люди; наиболее квалифицированные знающие работники *и т. п.*

he is among the best in his profession - он один из лучших специалистов в своей области

with the best - наравне с лучшими; не хуже других

◇ all for the best - всё к лучшему

at best - в лучшем случае

to be at one's best - быть в ударе /на высоте/; быть в наилучшем виде /состоянии/

to do /to try/ one's best - сделать всё возможное, не щадить усилий, проявлять максимум энергии

to have /to get/ the best of it - взять верх, победить, одолеть (в споре *и т. п.*)

to make the best of it /of a bad bargain, of business, of the job/ - мужественно переносить несчастья /затруднения/, не падать духом в беде

to make the best of smth. - а) использовать что-л. наилучшим образом /максимально/; б) примириться с неизбежным

to make the best of one's way - идти как можно скорее, спешить

to the best of one's ability - в полную меру сил /способностей/

to the best of my belief /knowledge/ - насколько мне известно

2. [best] a

1. *superl om good II*

2. 1) лучший

the best thing - лучше всего; самое лучшее

the best of wives - лучшая /добродетельнейшая/ из жён

he feels best in the morning - утром он чувствует себя лучше всего

2) самый подходящий

the best man for the job - наиболее подходящий человек для этой работы

3. большой

the best part of smth. - большая /значительная/ часть чего-л.

the best part of an hour - почти час, добрый час

4. основной, главный

the best of all trades - самая важная профессия

◇ to put one's best foot /leg/ foremost /forward/ - а) идти как можно быстрее, прибавить шагу, торопиться б) сделать всё возможное

3. [best] adv

1. *superl om well2 III*

2. наилучшим образом, лучше всего

to work best - работать лучше всех

as best one can - в меру своих сил

3. больше всего

which do you like best? - что вам нравится больше всего?

4. (best-) как компонент сложных слов самый

the best-hated man - самый ненавистный человек

the best-loved teacher - (самый) любимый учитель

4. [best] v разг.

1. нанести поражение; взять верх (*над кем-л.*)

after a long struggle we bested them - после длительной борьбы мы победили их

2. провести, перехитрить

best

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

best [**best bests bested besting**] **adjective, adverb, noun, verb** BrE [**best**]¹

NAmE [**best**]¹

adjective (superlative of good)

1. of the most excellent type or quality

- That's the best movie I've ever seen!
- He wrote his best songs before he was 25.
- She was one of the best tennis players of her generation.
- Is that your best suit?
- They've been **best friends** (= closest friends) since they were children.
- the company's **best-ever** results
- We want the kids to have the **best possible** education.

2. most enjoyable; happiest

- Those were the best years of my life.

3. most suitable or appropriate

- What's the best way to cook steak?
- The best thing to do would be to apologize.
- He's the best man for the job.
- **It's best** if you go now.
- I'm not in the best position to advise you.

Rem: Idioms containing best adj. are at the entries for the nouns and verbs in the idioms, for example on your best behaviour at behaviour

Word Origin:

Old English betest (adjective), betost, betst (adverb), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch and German **best**, also to ↑**better**.

Thesaurus:

best adj.

- the best way to cook steak
- It's best if you go now.

ideal • • **optimum** • • **wise** • • **sensible** • • **preferred** • |formal **desirable** • • **advisable** • |formal, BrE **favoured** • |formal, AmE **favoured** •

Opp: worst

be best/wise/sensible/desirable/advisable **to do sth**

the best/the optimum/a wise/a sensible/an ideal/the preferred **choice**

the best/a wise/a sensible **thing to do**

Example Bank:

- Owen judged it best to make no reply.
- This is by far the best restaurant in the town.
- We aim to give our guests the very best attention.
- Who in the class is best at history?
- He's the best man for the job.
- I'm not in the best position to advise you.
- It's best if you go now.
- What's the best way to cook steak?

Idioms: ↑**all the best** ▪ ↑**as best you can** ▪ ↑**at best** ▪ ↑**best of a bad bunch** ▪ best of three/five ▪ ↑**best that money can buy** ▪ do/mean something for the best ▪ ↑**for the best** ▪ ↑**get the best of something** ▪ ↑**make the best of a bad job** ▪ ↑**make the best of it** ▪ ↑**make the best of things** ▪ ↑**the best of your belief** ▪ ↑**with the best**

adverb (superlative of well, often used in adjectives)

1. most; to the greatest extent

- Which one do you like best?
- Well-drained soil suits the plant best.
- her **best-known** poem

2. in the most excellent way; to the highest standard

- He works best in the mornings.
- Britain's **best-dressed** woman
- The beaches are beautiful, but, **best of all**, there are very few tourists.

3. in the most suitable or appropriate way

- Painting is best done in daylight.
- Do as you **think best** (= what you think is the most suitable thing to do) .

Word Origin:

Old English betest (adjective), betost, betst (adverb), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch and German **best**, also to ↑**better**.

noun singular (usually **the best**)

1. the most excellent thing or person

- We all want the best for our children.
- They only buy the best.
- They're all good players, but she's the best of all.
- We're **the best of friends** (= very close friends) .

2. the highest standard that sb/sth can reach

- She always brings out the best in people.
- The town **looks its best** (= is most attractive) in the spring.
- Don't worry about the exam— just **do your best** .
- The roses are **past their best** now.
- I don't really feel **at my best** today.

3. something that is as close as possible to what you need or want

- Fifty pounds is the best I can offer you.
- The best we can hope for in the game is a draw.

4. the highest standard that a particular person has reached, especially in a sport

- She won the race with a **personal best** of 2 minutes 22.

more at the best/pick of the bunch **at** ↑**bunch** _{n.}, hope for the best **at** ↑**hope** _{v.}, best of luck **at** ↑**luck** _{n.}, your Sunday best **at** ↑**Sunday**

Word Origin:

Old English betest (adjective), betost, betst (adverb), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch and German **best**, also to ↑**better**.

verb usually passive ~ sb (formal)

to defeat or be more successful than sb

- He was determined not to be bested by his old rival

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	best
	BrE /best/
	NAme /best/
he / she / it	bests
	BrE /bests/
	NAme /bests/
past simple, past participle	bested
	BrE /bestɪd/
	NAme /bestɪd/
-ing form	besting
	BrE /bestɪŋ/
	NAme /bestɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Old English betest (adjective), betost, betst (adverb), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch and German *best*, also to ↑*better*.

Example Bank:

- A great colonial power was nearly bested by a few farmers.

See also: ↑*best of a bad lot*

best

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **best**¹ **S1 W1** /best/ BrE ^ˈ AmE ^ˈ adjective [superlative of good]

[Language: Old English; Origin: betst]

1. better than anything else or anyone else in quality, skill, how effective it is etc:

- He won the best actor award.
- What's the best way to cook this fish?
- The best thing to do is to stop worrying.

it's best to do something

- It's best to go later in the season.

easily the best/by far the best (=much better than anything else)

- John's idea is by far the best option.
- Our pilots are given the best possible training.
- We use only the very best ingredients.

2. **best friend** the friend that you know and like better than anyone else:

- She was my best friend in college.

3. **best dress/shoes/clothes etc** clothing that you keep for special occasions:

- I put on my best suit for the wedding.

4. **the next best thing** something that is not exactly what you want but is as similar to it as possible:

- If sterile equipment isn't available, the next best thing is to clean equipment with disinfectant.

5. **best of all** used to introduce the fact about a situation that is even better than the other good things:

- It's clean and well-located, but best of all, it's affordable.

6. **best before** *British English* written on food packets with the date that the food should be eaten before:

- Best before 13 July.
- a best-before date

⇒ **be on your best behaviour** at ↑*behaviour*(2), ⇒ **your best bet** at ↑*bet*²(2), ⇒ **the best/better part of** at ↑*part*¹(6)

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COLLOCATIONS

■ adverbs

- **the very best** He's one of the very best players around.
- **easily the best** The series was easily the best TV drama this year.
- **by far the best** One girl stood out as by far the best singer.

■ adjectives

- **the best possible** We sold the house at the best possible time.
- **the best available** The tuition we offer here is the best available.

■ nouns

- **the best way to do/of doing something** The best way to learn a language is to live in a country where it is spoken.
- **the best thing to do** The best thing to do is to apologize immediately.
- **the best way forward** (=the best way to make progress or deal with a problem) We believe that a merger is the best way forward for the business.
- **make the best use of something** Making the best use of space is important in any room.

II. **best**² **S1 W2** BrE ^ˈ AmE ^ˈ adverb [superlative of well]

1. in a way that is better than any other:

- It works best if you let it warm up first.
- This can best be described as a series of steps.
- the best-dressed man in Paris

2. to the greatest degree **SYN most**

- " You know him best – you should ask him.
- " The part I like best is the meal afterwards.
- " He's perhaps best known for his role in 'Midnight Cowboy'.

3. **as best you can** *spoken* as well as you can, even if this is not very good:

- " I'll try and fix it as best I can.

4. **had best** *spoken* ought to:

- " We'd best be getting back. ⇨ **had better** at ↑*better*²⁽³⁾

III. **best**³ *BrE* *AmE* *noun*

1. **the best**

a) the most helpful, most successful etc situation or results that you can achieve:

- " We all want the best for our children.
- " It's the best we can do in the circumstances.

b) the person or thing that is better than any other:

- " She's the best of the new young writers.

2. **do your best** to try as hard as you can to do something:

- " As long as you do your best, we'll be happy.

do your best to do something

- " She did her best to make him comfortable.

3. **at best** used to emphasize that something is not very good, pleasant, honest etc even if you consider it in the best possible way:

- " The campaign was at best only partially successful.
- " The technique is at best ineffective and at worst dangerous.

4. **to the best of your knowledge/belief/ability etc** used to say that something is as much as you know, believe, or are able to do:

- " I'm sure he'll do the work to the best of his ability.

5. **the best of something** used to refer to something very good:

- " We wish him the best of luck with this venture.
- " He hasn't been in the best of health lately.
- " They didn't part on the best of terms.
- " They became the best of friends (=very close friends).

6. **with the best of intentions/for the best of reasons** used to mean that someone does something with good intentions or for good reasons, even if the result is not always good:

- " I'm sure he went there with the best of intentions.

7. **the best of both worlds** a situation in which you have the advantages of two different things without any of the disadvantages:

- " They live in a village but it's only an hour from London, so they have the best of both worlds.

8. **at your best** performing as well or effectively as you are able to:

- " At her best, she's a really stylish player.
- " He was never at his best early in the morning.

9. **make the best of something** (also **make the best of a bad job/situation etc** *British English*) to accept a situation that is not very good, and do whatever you can to make it better:

- " We are stuck here, so we might as well make the best of it.

10. **all the best** used to express good wishes to someone for the future:

- " We'd just like to wish him all the best in his new job.

all the best for

- " All the best for the New Year!

11. **at the best of times** if something is not very good, pleasant etc at the best of times, it is usually even worse than this:

- " It's crowded at the best of times, but today it was unbearable.

12. **the best of a bad lot/bunch** *British English* the least bad person or thing in a group of not very good people or things

13. **be for the best** *especially spoken* used to say that a particular event may seem bad now, but might have a good result later:

- " I still don't want him to go, but maybe it's for the best.

14. **your Sunday best** *old-fashioned* your best clothes, that you only wear on special occasions

IV. **best**⁴ *BrE* *AmE* *verb* [transitive]

old-fashioned to defeat someone

best

12500 **977**^{MCW}

15000 **107**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** **BEST** ³⁴⁶⁸⁶²

best ¹⁷⁴³⁰⁸

better ¹⁷²²²⁶

betterment ³²⁸

betterments ⁰

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

66205 **288**¹³⁰⁸⁸⁴ *jjt*

26774 **1084**³⁷⁶⁰⁷ *rrt*

3980 **7864**⁴³¹² *rr22*

1082 **18811**¹²⁰⁰ *vv0*

99 **73912**¹⁰⁵ *nn1*

89 **78678**⁹³ *vvi*

50 106502⁵² *jjr*
30 141828³⁰ *nnu*
8 290596⁸ *jj*
8 294220⁸ *np1*
5 376440⁵ *cc*
4 425464⁴ *ii*
