

B

background *noun*

- P1 **A** Mark stayed discreetly in the *background* over Christmas because that's still very much a family occasion.
B Like most of the early moguls, the Warners were from a Jewish working-class *background*.
- P2 **+ in N/V-ing**
B They question whether Twinn, with a *background* in prison management rather than communication, is the best frontman. • Deputy Premier Tom Burns has referred to a problem with ethnic fishermen who have no cultural *background* in preserving fish stocks.
- P3 **+ of N (frequent)**
A The meeting is taking place against a *background* of growing industrial unrest.
- P4 **+ on N**
A Do you want more *background* on Mrs. Corbett?
- P5 **+ to N**
A George Powell of the BBC examines the *background* to these developments and what their implications may be.

- A** The **background to events** is 'what lies behind or as an explanation of them'. → P1 P3 P4 P5
B A **person's background** is 'their origins, the environment in which they were born and educated, or the earlier stages of their education and career'. → P1 P2 P3

bad *adjective*

- P1 **attr** That is *bad* news.
- P2 **pred** But right now, the situation is *bad*.
- P3 **+ to-INF** The fish became *bad* to eat.
- P4 **[it] + to-INF** I'm not saying it's *bad* to be arrogant. • It's *bad* to smoke, it's *bad* to drink, it's *bad* to eat various types of food.
- P5 **+ at N/V-ing** What usually happens to the child who is *bad* at maths is that it will say to itself: "Ah, I'm no good at this." • You are very *bad* at map reading. • I'm *bad* at remembering these things.
- P6 **+ for N/V-ing (frequent)** Single guests in double rooms. *Bad* for business. • "I've given up coffee," added Poma in explanation. Usually he drank five or six strong coffees a day. "It's *bad* for my nerves." • The confirmed food-a-holic may indignantly reject the suggestion that his favorite food or drink is *bad* for him. • All of this, teacher Allan Friedman says, has created an environment that is *bad* for teaching and *bad* for learning.
- P7 **+ for N + to-INF (rare)** Everybody knows what's good for you to eat and what's *bad* for you to eat. I just cut out the bad stuff.
- P8 **[it] + for N + to-INF / [it] + for N to-INF** I saw then that he thought it was *bad* for children to be too happy, to have everything they wanted. • It is *bad* for her to stay in bed too long. • It might look *bad* for an employer to sack certain individuals. • A worrying cross-party consensus seems to be emerging that it is *bad* for British companies to pay high dividends to their shareholders.
- P9 **[it] + of N + to-INF (rare)** I don't think it's *bad* of me to feel that way.

Bad generally means 'the opposite of good':

- (i) **Something or someone can be bad for a person**, i.e. have a harmful effect.
- (ii) **It can be bad for something to be the case or for someone to do something or be somewhere**, i.e. bad for a particular purpose or *another* person or group.
- (iii) **It can be bad for someone to do something or be somewhere**, in the sense that *they themselves* are negatively affected by it.
- (iv) **A person can be bad at doing something or bad at something such as a school subject**.