

When bad means good

1. Complete the gaps with the correct prepositions. You should use the same preposition in each pair of expressions.

- a) a sports activity you're bad
a household chore you're good doing
- b) a habit that is bad our health
a reason why competition is good business
- c) a decision you've made recently that you feel good
a thing you feel bad not doing in the past
- d) a person you know who is good children
a person who is bad money
- e) a person who's always been good you
a reason why some people are bad others

2. Choose one situation from each pair in ex. 1 and talk about it.

3. Read the sentences and answer the questions below.

- a) She's been waiting for a good half hour to finally be seated in her favourite restaurant.
- b) They're very negative and only see the bad in everything.
- c) Even small donations can do a lot of good.
- d) Man! Your new motorcycle is so bad!
- e) They've just lost their jobs, so they need money real bad¹.

- 1) In which sentence does *bad* mean *good*?
- 2) In which sentence is *bad* used as an adverb?
- 3) In which sentences are *good* and *bad* used as nouns?
- 4) In which sentence does *bad* mean *very much*?
- 5) In which sentence does *good* mean *more than*?

¹ Note that this is AmE and informal use of *bad* as an adverb

4. Discuss the questions.

- Would you ever wait a good half hour or more to be seated in a restaurant?
Why (not)?
- Do you think that our brains are wired to only see the bad in everything?
Why (not)?
- What does more good: donating money or volunteering?
- What is one thing you need real bad right now?

5. Read the dialogues and complete them with *good* or *bad*. Then, try to explain the meaning of the underlined phrases.

EXAMPLE: A: Would you like something else to drink?

B: No, I'm good. Thanks.

- a) A: Oh great, we won't see the concert. It's sold out!
B: My, I thought tickets would be available just before the concert.
- b) A: How's your new business?
B: So far so, but we have to wait a bit longer to see how it goes in the long run.
- c) A: I didn't get the job.
B: Oh, that's too Do you have any other interviews?
- d) A: Have you seen Kate dancing? Not, eh?
B: Yeah, she's great! She'll definitely win the competition!
- e) A: Honey, I bought a Ferrari!
B: You did what? Ha, ha, that's a one! I almost believed you!
- f) A: I can't come. I'm ill!
B: Oh, luck. I'm sure you can come next time!
- g) A: Do you have all your stuff?
B: Almost. Just give me a couple of minutes and I'll be to go.
- h) A: Guess what, mum? I got promoted!
B: Oh, sweetie, for you!
- i) A: I failed the test.
B: Too You should have studied more.

6. Use the underlined phrases in the dialogues in ex. 5 to write two more dialogues.

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7. Choose a card and think what you would say when faced with the situation. Use the expressions with *good* and *bad* from this lesson.

