

weak[wi:k] *a*

1. слабый (*физически*); бессильный; хилый, хрупкий
 - weak muscles - слабые мускулы
 - weak constitution - хрупкое сложение
 - weak sight - слабое /плохое/ зрение
 - weak coal - *горн.* хрупкий уголь
 - weak in intellect /in the head/ - умственно неполноценный придурковатый
 - weak with loss of blood - ослабевший от потери крови
 - too weak to walk - от слабости не может ходить
2. безвольный, нерешительный, неустойчивый
 - weak will - слабоволие, безволие
 - weak man - безвольный /нерешительный/ человек
 - weak character - слабохарактерность
 - weak refusal - нерешительный отказ
 - in a weak moment - в минуту слабости
 - weak in faith - неустойчивый /*библ.* немощный/ в вере
 - weak in spirit - слабый духом
 - weaker brethren - а) *библ.* немощные братья; б) неустойчивые /непоследовательные/ сторонники (*учения и т. п.*)
3. неубедительный, неосновательный, шаткий
 - weak excuse - плохое оправдание, неубедительная отговорка
 - weak argument - слабый /неубедительный/ довод
 - weak logic - слабая логика, нелогичное рассуждение
4. 1) жидкий, водянистый; некрепкий
 - weak tea [coffee] - слабый чай [кофе]
 - weak decoction - жидкий отвар
 - weak wine - лёгкое /некрепкое/ вино
- 2) *спец.* бедный (*о горючей смеси*)
5. неэффективный, неавторитетный, несильный
 - weak government - слабое правительство
6. неспособный
 - weak students - слабые учащиеся
7. невыразительный, бедный (*о языке*)
8. *эк.* понижающийся (*о ценах, курсах*); вялый, бездеятельный, со снижающимися ценами (*о рынке*)
 - the market is weak - настроение рынка вялое
 - weak demand for goods - вялый спрос на товары
9. *грам.* слабый
 - weak verb [declension, conjugation] - слабый глагол [-ое склонение, -ое спряжение]
10. *фон.*
 - 1) ослабленный, редуцированный
 - 2) слабый, второстепенный (*об ударении*)
11. 1) *тех.* непрочный, низкой прочности; неустойчивый
- 2) *фото* бледный
 - weak picture - бледный снимок
 - ◇ weak knees - бесхребетность; малодушие
 - the weaker sex - слабый пол (*о женщинах*)
 - weak hand - *карт.* слабая рука, плохие карты
 - weak as a cat - слабосильный; ≅ слабее котёнка
 - weak as water - а) слабенький, хилый; б) слабохарактерный, малодушный

weak

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

weak [weak weaker weakest] *BrE* [wi:k] ^m *NAmE* [wi:k] ^m adjective (weaker, weakest)

NOT PHYSICALLY STRONG

1. not physically strong
 - She is still weak after her illness.
 - His legs felt weak.
 - She suffered from a weak heart.

LIKELY TO BREAK

2. that cannot support a lot of weight; likely to break
 - That bridge is too weak for heavy traffic.

WITHOUT POWER

3. easy to influence; not having much power
 - a weak and cowardly man
 - **In a weak moment** (= when I was easily persuaded) I said she could borrow the car.

- a weak leader
- The unions have always been weak in this industry.

POOR/SICK PEOPLE

4. **the weak** **noun plural** people who are poor, sick or without power

CURRENCY/ECONOMY

5. not **↑financially** strong or successful
- a weak currency
 - The economy is very weak.

NOT GOOD AT STH

6. not good at sth
- a weak team
 - ~ **in sth** I was always weak in the science subjects.

NOT CONVINCING

7. that people are not likely to believe or be persuaded by
- Syn:** **↑unconvincing**
- weak arguments
 - I enjoyed the movie but I thought the ending was very weak.

HARD TO SEE/HEAR

8. not easily seen or heard
- a weak light/signal/sound

WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM

9. done without enthusiasm or energy
- a weak smile
 - He made a weak attempt to look cheerful.

LIQUID

10. a weak liquid contains a lot of water
- weak tea

POINT/SPOT

11. ~ point/spot the part of a person's character, an argument, etc. that is easy to attack or criticize
- The team's weak points are in defence.
 - He knew her weak spot where Steve was concerned.

GRAMMAR

12. a weak verb forms the past tense and past participle by adding a regular ending and not by changing a vowel. In English this is done by adding -d, -ed or -t (for example walk, walked)

PHONETICS

13. (of the pronunciation of some words) used when there is no stress on the word. For example, the **weak** form of and is /**[ən]** / or /**[n]** /, as in bread and butter /**[,bred n 'bʌtə(r)]** /.

Opp: **↑strong**

more at the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak **at** **↑spirit** n.

Idioms: **↑weak at the knees** ▪ **↑weak link**

Word Origin:

Old English wāc 'pliant', 'of little worth', 'not steadfast', reinforced in Middle English by Old Norse **veikr**, from a Germanic base meaning 'yield, give way'.

Example Bank:

- He was weak with hunger.
- He's weak in English.
- Her legs felt suddenly weak.
- She was weak from shock.
- She's rather weak at languages.
- The essay was a bit weak on detail.
- The judge decided the evidence was inherently weak and inconsistent.
- When the spasm passed, it left him weak and sweating.
- The case for the prosecution was rather weak.
- The weak winter sunlight spread across the lake.
- weak arguments/evidence

weak **S3 W2** /wi:k BrE ^ˈ AmE ^ˈ adjective

[Word Family: noun: ↑weakling, ↑weakness; verb: ↑weaken; adverb: ↑weakly; adjective: ↑weak]

[Date: 1200-1300; Language: Old Norse; Origin: veikr]

1. PHYSICAL not physically strong:

- The illness left her feeling weak.
- Poor light produces weak plants.

be too weak to do something

- She's too weak to feed herself.

weak with/from

- Nina was weak with hunger.
- The animal was weak from loss of blood.

weak heart/lungs etc

- My grandfather had a weak heart.

2. LIKELY TO BREAK unable to support much weight:

- a weak bridge

too weak to do something

- The branch was too weak to support his weight.

3. CHARACTER easily influenced by other people – used to show disapproval:

- a weak indecisive man

4. WITHOUT POWER not having much power or influence

weak leader/ruler/king etc

- a weak and ineffective president
- The party was left weak and divided.
- The country is in a weak position economically.

5. WITHOUT INTEREST without the power to interest or amuse people:

- The play is well acted but the plot is weak.
- a weak joke

6. WITHOUT ENERGY done without energy or confidence:

- He managed a weak smile.

7. NOT GOOD AT DOING SOMETHING not good at a particular skill or subject, or in a particular area of activity or knowledge

weak in

- New Zealand was weak in defense.

weak on

- She speaks quite fluently but she's weak on grammar.
- Be honest about your weak points (=your faults or the things you do not do well).

8. MONEY not financially successful

weak currency/economy etc

- The pound was weak against the dollar.

9. ARGUMENT/IDEA not likely to make people believe that something is true or right:

- She's washing her hair? That sounds like a weak excuse!
- There are some weak points in her argument.
- The defence lawyer clearly knew that his case was weak.

10. DRINK weak tea, beer etc contains a lot of water and has little taste **OPP strong**

11. LIGHT/SOUND difficult to see or hear **SYN faint**:

- a weak radio signal
- He had only a weak light to see by.

12. weak points/spots the parts of something that can easily be attacked or criticized:

- Check your house for weak spots where a thief could enter.

13. weak at the knees feeling strange because of strong emotions:

- His smile made her go weak at the knees.

14. weak moment a time when you can be persuaded more easily than usual:

- Dave caught me at a weak moment and I lent him £10.

15. the weak/weakest link the person or thing in a situation that is less strong, skilful etc than the others:

- Goalkeeper Gouter proved to be the weakest link.

16. weak verb *technical* a verb that forms regular past tenses **OPP strong verb**

17. weak consonant/syllable one that is not emphasized

—weakly *adverb*:

- 'I'm sorry,' she said, smiling weakly.
- He sank down weakly beside her.

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THESAURUS

■ **not physically strong**

- **weak** not physically strong, sometimes because you are ill: Tom's had flu and he's still feeling weak. | The doctors said she was too weak to have an operation. | He suffered constantly from a weak chest.
- **frail** weak and thin, especially because you are old: a frail 85-year-old lady | My grandfather's becoming quite frail now.
- **shaky** feeling weak in your legs and only able to walk slowly and unsteadily: When I came out of hospital I was a bit shaky for a while.
- **puny** /'pjʊŋri/ *especially disapproving* small, thin, and looking very weak: his puny white arms | He was a puny little boy who

was often bullied at school.

- **feeble** *especially written* weak and unable to do much because you are very ill, very old or young: For a week she was too feeble to get out of bed. | a tiny, feeble baby
- **delicate** weak and often becoming ill easily: a delicate child | She had rather a delicate constitution (=her body easily became ill).
- **infirm** *formal* weak or ill for a long time, especially because you are old: a residential home for people who are elderly and infirm | There are special facilities for wheelchair users and infirm guests.
- **malnourished** *formal* weak or ill because you have not had enough good food to eat: Half a million people there are severely malnourished. | The organization provides emergency feeding for malnourished children.

■ likely to break

- **weak** unable to support much weight, and likely to break: The foundations of the building are rather weak. | an old chair with weak legs
- **fragile** made of a thin material that is easy to break or damage – used when something needs to be handled carefully: a fragile china vase | Be careful of those glasses – they're very fragile.
- **delicate** easy to break or damage – used especially about soft materials, skin etc: Wash delicate fabrics separately. | This soap is good for delicate skin.
- **flimsy** not well-made from strong materials and so easily damaged – used about furniture, houses etc: a flimsy plastic table | This keyboard's very cheap but it's a bit flimsy.
- **rickety** /'rɪkəti, 'rɪkɪti/ in very bad condition and likely to break – used about a building, piece of furniture, vehicle etc: a rickety old bicycle | He lived in a rickety hut on the beach for several years.

weak

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RANGE: **2k** **WEAK** 35118

weak 14622

weaker 2737

weakest 905

weakly 1224

weakness 5415

weaknesses 3207

weaken 1901

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weakening 1497

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COCA 500k Unlemmatized

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