

early**1. [ˈɜːli] a****1. 1) ранний**

early morning - раннее утро

in early spring - ранней весной

early breakfast - ранний завтрак

at an early hour - рано утром, в ранний час

he is an early riser - он рано встаёт

early delivery - первая /утренняя/ доставка (*почты*)

early edition - а) утренний выпуск (*газеты*); б) одно из первых изданий (*книги*)

to be too early - прийти раньше назначенного /нужного/ времени

it's too early to go in, the doors don't open till 8 o'clock - ещё не пускают, двери открываются только в 8 часов

to keep early hours - рано ложиться и рано вставать

2) ранний, раннеспелый, скороспелый

early fruit - скороспелка, скороспелый сорт

early tomatoes - ранние помидоры

3) в *сравнит. ст.* предыдущий

earlier studies - ранее проведённые исследования

in the earlier chapters - в предыдущих главах

4) начальный

the early Middle Ages - раннее средневековье

in the early 20th century - в начале XX века

in the early forties - в начале сороковых годов

a man in his early forties - человек сорока лет с небольшим

man's early experience [environment] - впечатления [обстановка] раннего детства

in the earliest days of our history - на заре нашей истории

early Rembrandt - ранний Рембрандт

early stage - ранняя фаза, начальная стадия

early cancer - *мед.* начальный рак

2. заблаговременный, своевременный

early warning - заблаговременное предупреждение

early diagnosis - ранний диагноз, раннее распознавание болезни

early sheet - *полигр.* пробный оттиск, пробный набор

3. близкий, ожидаемый в ближайшем будущем, скорейший

at an early date - в ближайшее время

at the earliest opportunity - при первой возможности

at your earliest convenience - как только вы сможете

prospects of an early peace - надежды на скорое установление мира

demands for early independence - требования незамедлительного предоставления независимости

4. преждевременный, досрочный

early election - досрочные выборы

early closing - закрытие магазинов и учреждений раньше обычного (*в один из дней недели*)

early death - безвременная смерть

5. старинный, древний

early manuscript - старая /древняя/ рукопись

early philosophers - древние философы

early printed book - старопечатная книга

Early English (style) - *архит.* раннеанглийский стиль

6. *тех.* происходящий ранее заданного момента времени

early timing - опережение зажигания (*двигателя*)

7. *геол.* нижний (о свитах); древний**2. [ˈɜːli] adv****1. рано**

to be up early - рано вставать

to wed early - рано вступать в брак

in June, at the earliest - самое раннее в июне

he died early in life - он рано умер, он умер молодым

2. в начале (чего-л.)

early (in) this year - в начале этого года

early next month - в начале будущего месяца

3. своевременно, заблаговременно

to arrive early at a meeting - явиться на собрание своевременно /заблаговременно/

4. скоро, в ближайшее время

◇ as early as possible - как можно скорее

early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise - *посл.* ≅ кто рано ложится и рано встаёт, здоровье, богатство и ум наживёт

early [early earlies earlier earliest] adjective, adverb *BrE* ['ɜːrli] *NAmE* ['ɜːrli]

adjective (earl-ier, earli-est)

- near the beginning of a period of time, an event etc
 - the early morning
 - my earliest memories
 - The project is still in the early stages.
 - the early 1990s
 - in **the early days of** space exploration (= when it was just beginning)
 - The earliest possible date I can make it is the third.
 - He's in his early twenties.
 - Mozart's early works (= those written at the beginning of his career)
 - Early booking is essential, as space is limited.
 - The ruling overturned the court's earlier decision.
 - The earliest description of this species dates from 1703.
- arriving or done before the usual, expected or planned time
 - You're early! I wasn't expecting you till seven.
 - The bus was ten minutes early.
 - an early breakfast
 - Let's **make an early start** tomorrow.
 - She's an **early riser** (= she gets up early in the morning) .
 - He learnt to play the piano at an **early age** .
 - early potatoes (= that are ready to eat at the beginning of the season)

Opp: ↑late

more at bright and early **at** ↑bright adj., the small/early hours **at** ↑hour, an early/a late night **at** ↑night

Word Origin:

Old English (as an adverb) ǣrlice (see ↑ere, ↑-ly), influenced by Old Norse *árliga*. The adjective use dates from Middle English.

Thesaurus:

early *adj.*

• Let's make an early start.

punctual • • **prompt** • • **on time** •

Opp: late

be early/punctual **for** sth

Example Bank:

- I have to get up ridiculously early.
- I'm sorry I'm a bit early.
- It's a little early for lunch.
- These discoveries were made at a surprisingly early date.
- You're here awfully early, aren't you?
- He learned to play the piano at an early age.
- Let's make an early start tomorrow.
- She's an early riser.
- These are early potatoes.
- We had an early breakfast.
- You're an early bird this morning!
- You're early! I wasn't expecting you till seven.

Idioms: ↑at your earliest convenience ▪ ↑early bird ▪ ↑early bird catches the worm ▪ ↑early on ▪ ↑it's early days

Derived Word ↑earliness

adverb (earl-ier, earli-est)

- near the beginning of a period of time, an event, a piece of work, etc
 - early in the week/year/season/morning**
 - The best rooms go to those who book earliest.
 - We arrived early the next day.
 - We meet the hero quite early in the film.
 - He started writing music as early as 1989.
- before the usual, expected or planned time
 - The bus came five minutes early.
 - I woke up early this morning.
 - The baby arrived earlier than expected.
 - early flowering plants
- earlier** before the present time or the time mentioned

Opp: ↑late

- As I mentioned earlier...
- a week earlier
- She had seen him earlier in the day.

Opp: ↑later

Word Origin:

Old English (as an adverb) ǣrlice (see ↑ere, ↑-ly), influenced by Old Norse árliga. The adjective use dates from Middle English.

Example Bank:

- I arrived a few minutes early for my interview.

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

early

I. **ear**lly¹ **S1 W1** /'ɜːrli/ **BrE** **AmE** adjective (comparative **earlier**, superlative **earliest**)

[Language: Old English; Origin: ærlice, from ær 'early, soon']

1. FIRST PART in the first part of a period of time, event, or process:

- the early morning sunshine
- an afternoon in early spring
- In the early days, the railways mainly carried goods.
- She is in her early twenties.
- the recession of the early 1980s
- The money could be paid as early as next week.
- He spent the early part of his career at St John's Hospital.
- the experiences of early childhood
- the early works of Shakespeare
- My earliest memories are of fruit trees.
- Early signs are encouraging.

2. BEFORE USUAL arriving or happening before the usual or expected time **OPP late**

five minutes/three hours etc early

- The bus was ten minutes early.
- early for**
- I was a few minutes early for my appointment.
- David decided to take early retirement (=stop working before the normal age).
- She drank herself into an early grave (=died younger than is normal).

3. BEGINNING used to emphasize that something has just begun, especially when you do not know how it will develop:

- It's too early to say what will happen.
- It's early days yet. I don't want to make any predictions.

4. NEW THING [only before noun] being one of the first people, events, machines etc:

- Early motor cars had very poor brakes.
- fossil evidence of early man

5. the early hours the time between ↑midnight and morning:

- I didn't finally get to bed until the early hours.

in the early hours of something

- The attack happened in the early hours of Sunday morning.

6. an early start a start made very early in the day because you have a lot to do, far to go etc:

- We need to make an early start tomorrow.

7. at/from an early age when you are very young, or starting when you were very young:

- She's played tennis from a very early age.

8. an early night if you have an early night, you go to bed earlier than usual **OPP a late night**

have/get an early night

- I think I'll get an early night.

9. early bird/early riser someone who always gets up very early in the morning

10. the early bird catches the worm used to say that if you do something early or before other people, you will be successful

11. early potatoes/lettuces etc potatoes etc that are ready to be picked before any others

...

COLLOCATIONS

■ **nouns**

- early morning/afternoon/evening** The lake looked beautiful in the pale early morning light.
- early spring/summer etc** These plants produce flowers from early spring to late summer.
- early August/January etc** Italy is lovely in early June, before it gets too hot.
- the early days/months/years of something** (=the period of time near the beginning of something) In the early years of our marriage, we lived with my wife's parents.
- in your early twenties/forties etc** (=aged 20–23, 40–43 etc) Both men are in their early twenties.
- the early 1920s/1970s etc** (=1920–23, 1970–73 etc) He lived in London in the early 1980s.
- sb's early childhood/adolescence/life** (=when someone is a young child, adolescent etc) We've known each other since early childhood.
- an early stage** (=near the beginning of a process) Patients can be treated with drugs, especially at the early stage of the disease.

- **the early part of something** (=near the beginning of an event or period of time) I was doing quite well in the early part of the race.
- **sb's earliest memory** (=the first thing you can remember about something from your past) One of my earliest memories is of being at a busy railway station, trying to find my mum.

• • •

THESAURUS

- **early** arriving or happening before the usual or expected time: For once, the train arrived early. | Let's have an early lunch before we go.
- **in good time** *especially British English* early enough, so that you do not have to rush, or so that you have time to get ready: Everything was ready for the party in good time.
- **on time** arriving somewhere or happening at the right time: The bus was on time. | The project was finished on time.
- **ahead of time** earlier than the time when you have arranged to do something or than when you need something: The building work was completed ahead of time. | Some of the food can be prepared ahead of time.
- **ahead of schedule** earlier than the officially agreed time: The Prime Minister called the elections early, five months ahead of schedule.
- **with time to spare** arriving somewhere or finishing something before the time when you have to arrive or finish: We got to the airport with plenty of time to spare. | I finished the test with time to spare.
- **first thing** *especially spoken* immediately after you get up, or as soon as you start work: I'll telephone her first thing tomorrow.

II. **early**² **S1** **W1** **BrE** ^{*} **AmE** ^{*} **adverb** (comparative **earlier**, superlative **earliest**)

1. before the usual, arranged, or expected time **OPP late**:

- We arrived early.
- They must have come home early.

2. near the beginning of a period of time, event, process etc **OPP late**

early in

- She went out early in the morning.
- He was sent off early in the game.

early this/next/last year etc

- The building should be finished early next year.
- The restaurant opened earlier this month.
- We want to start as early as possible.
- The disease is easy to treat if diagnosed early.

3. **early on** at an early stage in a relationship, process etc:

- I realized early on I'd never pass the exam.

early on in

- We encountered problems early on in the project.

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COLLOCATIONS

■ verbs

- **arrive early/be early** Some of the guests arrived early.
- **leave early** I had to leave early, so I missed the end of the party.
- **be/get/come home early** Your father said he'd be home early.
- **get up/wake up/be up early** Set the alarm for six – I have to be up early tomorrow.
- **go to bed early** I think I'll go to bed early tonight.

■ phrases

- **early in the morning/afternoon/evening** We set off early in the morning.
- **early in May/June etc** I usually go on holiday early in July.
- **early in 1998/2004 etc** We moved to Manchester early in 2004.
- **early in the year/century** (=in the first part of the year or century) It was too early in the year for a lot of flowers.

early

Frequency Pack

12500 **288**^{MCW}

15000 **227**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** **EARLY** 192231

early 129424

earlier 57564

earliest 5228

earliness 15

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

47595 **443**⁸⁹⁸⁶⁶ *jj*

28255 **1027**³⁹⁴⁶⁹ *rr*

87 **80480**⁸⁹ *nn1*