

thing[θɪŋ] *n***1. 1) вещь; предмет**

material things - физические предметы

small thing - вещица

thing of beauty - красивая вещь

expensive things - дорогие вещи

the things of this world - предметы материального мира

to be more interested in things than in human beings - интересоваться вещами больше, чем людьми

he likes to make things with his hands - он любит мастерить

what's the thing in your hand? - что это (за штука) у тебя в руке?

a thing in itself - *филос.* вещь в себе

not a thing to be seen anywhere - всё пусто вокруг

2) *pl* атрибуты

things Japanese - всё японское; всё, что имеет отношение к Японии

things political - политика

to have a passion for things political - страстно увлекаться политикой

2. *pl***1) имущество**

they had to come with all their things - они должны были явиться со всем своим имуществом

to get rid of all the useless things in the house - избавиться от всякого хлама в доме

all the things in the house were burned - все вещи в доме сгорели

I forbid you to touch my things - я запрещаю тебе трогать мои вещи

things personal [real] - *юр.* движимое [недвижимое] имуществоthings in action - *юр.* право требования имущество, заключающееся в требованиях**2) вещи, багаж**

to pack up one's things - упаковать вещи

his things are always lying around on - всегда разбрасывает свои вещи

3. *часто pl* носильные вещи; одежда, предметы одежды

bathing /swimming/ things - купальный костюм

summer [winter] things - летние [зимние] вещи

to put on [to take off] one's things - одеться [раздеться]

I haven't a thing to wear - мне нечего надеть

I have bought some new things for you - я купил тебе кое-какие новые вещи (*платья и т. п.*)

we send the big things to the laundry - большие вещи мы отдаём в стирку /стираем в прачечной/

4. еда; питьё

sweet things - сладости, сласти

good things - лакомства

you must avoid sweet or starchy things - избегай сладкого и мучного

there was not a thing to eat - в доме не было ни крошки, есть было совершенно нечего

some drugs are dangerous things - некоторые лекарства опасны для здоровья

5. *pl* *обыкн. разг.* принадлежности; утварь; предметы обихода

tea things - чайная посуда

cooking things - кухонная утварь, кухонные принадлежности

to wash up the tea things - помыть чайную посуду

the plumber hasn't brought his things - водопроводчик не захватил с собой инструментов

6. 1) произведение искусства, литературы *и т. п.*; создание

an excellent thing - великолепная вещь

he wrote popular things for jazz-bands - он писал популярные произведения для джаз-оркестров

2) рассказ; анекдот

here is a little thing of mine I'd like to read to you - вот одна моя вещица, которую я хотел бы прочитать вам

7. вещь, явление

to look at things (from one's own point of view) - смотреть на вещи /на дело/ (со своей собственной точки зрения)

to speak of different things - говорить о разных вещах

to take things too seriously - принимать всё чересчур всерьёз, слишком серьёзно ко всему относиться

I must think things over - я должен всё обдумать

there's another thing I'd like to ask you about - я хотел бы спросить вас (и) о другом /ещё об одном/

it's the funniest thing I have ever heard - в жизни своей не слышал ничего более смешного

8. *обыкн. pl* обстоятельства обстановка

the state of things - положение вещей /дел/

how are things? - как (обстоят) дела?

tell me how things go /stand/? - расскажите мне, как идут /обстоят/ дела?

as things go /stand, are/ now - при сложившихся обстоятельствах при нынешнем положении дел; в сложившейся обстановке

things have changed greatly - обстановка существенно изменилась

that wouldn't change things between us - от этого наши отношения не изменятся

things look black - нельзя ждать ничего хорошего

things are getting better - дела поправляются

things might go wrong - всё может сорваться /провалиться/

that things should have come to this! - подумать только, до чего дошло дело /как изменились обстоятельства!)

we hope for better things - мы надеемся на изменение к лучшему /что обстоятельства изменятся к лучшему/

other things being equal - при прочих равных условиях

all things considered - учитывая всё

that's a nice thing! - хорошенькое дело!

9. дело

let's get this thing over with quickly - давайте быстро покончим с этим делом

I have several things to attend to - мне (ещё) нужно кое-что сделать; у меня ещё есть дела

he gets things done on - добивается своего, он умеет делать дело

10. нечто, что-то

to think hard things of a person - плохо думать о человеке

to go about saying things - болтать всякое

to talk of one thing and another - поговорить о том о сём

to mutter dark things - бормотать нечто неразборчивое или загадочное

he says the first thing that comes into his head - он говорит первое, что взбредёт ему на ум

don't put things into his head - не забивайте ему голову всяким вздором

something must be done to stop this sort of thing - необходимо что-то предпринять, чтобы прекратить такие вещи

I don't know a thing about algebra - я ничего не смыслю в алгебре

it doesn't mean a thing to me - я не вижу в этом никакого смысла, мне это кажется совершенной бессмыслицей

it would be a good thing to make sure of it - неплохо было бы и этом убедиться

that's quite another thing - это совсем другое дело

neither one thing, nor another - ни то, ни другое

one thing or the other - либо то, либо другое

it's (just) one thing after another, if it's not one thing it's another - этому конца не видно; то одно, то другое; не то, так другое

what with one thing and another - то одно, то другое - хлопот не оберёшься

the thing I don't like about this plan - (то) что мне не нравится в этом плане

the important thing to remember - то, что важно запомнить; важно запомнить то ...

the best thing is ... - самое лучшее ..., лучше всего ...

the next best thing - лучшее из остального

the great thing - самое важное

the great thing was to get there in time - во что бы то ни стало нужно было добраться туда вовремя

strange thing - странное дело

it's a strange thing he doesn't write - странно, что он не пишет

the right thing - как раз то (что надо)

to say the right thing - сказать то, что надо

the wrong thing - совсем не то (что надо)

to say the wrong thing - сказать не то /невпопад/

not a thing - ничто

not a thing escaped him - ничто не ускользало от его внимания

11. деталь, особенность

to worry over every little thing - беспокоиться по каждому пустяку

not a thing has been overlooked - ничто не было упущено

it is the small things about him that puzzle me - в его поведении меня удивляют разные /некоторые/ мелочи

12. что-л. очень нужное, важное, подходящее и т. п.

that's the thing - в этом всё дело, это самое главное

the thing is ... - всё дело в том ...; суть дела состоит в том ...

the thing was to get home - прежде всего надо было добраться до дому

the only thing now is to take a taxi - единственное, что можно сейчас сделать, это взять такси

(quite) the thing - а) (именно) то, что надо; that's the very /just the/ thing - это как раз то, что нужно; a good thrashing would be the

thing for him - задать ему хорошую трёпку - он сразу поймёт что к чему; б) модный, по моде; the latest thing in hats -

последний фасон шляпок

13. 1) действие, поступок

to wish to do great things - мечтать о больших делах

I did no such thing - я не делал ничего подобного; я и не думал делать этого [ср. тж. ◇]

to do the handsome thing by smb. - оказать услугу кому-л.; хорошо поступить по отношению к кому-л.

that's not at all the thing to do - это очень нехорошо; это не принято (делать), так не поступают

what a thing to do! - разве так можно!, разве так поступают!, как можно было сделать такое!

we expect great things of you - мы многого от вас ждём

2) событие

his death was a tragic thing - его смерть была тяжёлым ударом

strange things happened - происходили странные вещи

14. 1) существо; создание

poor thing - бедняжка

young thing - юное создание

little thing - малютка, крошка

a sweet little thing - прелестная крошка

dumb things - бессловесные твари /животные/

mean thing - подлая тварь

foolish old thing - старый дурак

no living thing has ever done it - никому ещё не удавалось этого сделать

he was like a mad thing on - обезумел от ярости

2) в обращении **разг.** человек

dear thing - дорогой

old thing - старина

you silly thing! - болван!; ну и болван же ты!

15. в сочетании с предшествующим **сущ. разг., пренебр.** уродливая вещь

what's that veil thing you're wearing? - что это ты в такую нелепую вуаль вырядилась?

◇ spiritual things, things of the mind - духовные ценности

in all things - во всех отношениях, во всём

and things - и другое, и тому подобное

and another thing - и ещё одно

sure thing - **амер.** наверняка, конечно; само собой

near thing - опасное положение; ≅ на волосок от гибели

no such thing - ничего подобного; ничто не может быть дальше от истины [**ср. мж.** 13, 1]]

no great things - ничего особенного, так себе; не бог весть что

(the) first thing - прежде всего; первым делом; перво-наперво

I'll write the letter (the) first thing in the morning - завтра утром первым делом напишу письмо

(the) next thing - затем

(the) last thing - а) в последнюю очередь, напоследок; наконец; б) самое неожиданное; то, чего менее всего можно ждать

the same thing - то же самое

for one thing - прежде всего; начать с того, что; для начала

for another thing - кроме того; во-вторых

of all things - **эмоц.-усил.** ну и ну!, вот тебе и на!, надо же!, подумать только!

above all things - прежде всего; больше всего, главным образом

among other things - между прочим

as a general/as a usual/ thing - обычно, как правило

one of those things - неизбежная неприятность (*повседневной жизни*)

it's one of those things thing - в жизни всякое бывает, ничего не поделаешь, приходится мириться

it is too much of a good thing - хорошенького понемножку; это уж слишком /чересчур/

it's a thing about him - это у него идефикс, он помешался на этом, он ни о чём другом думать не может

to have a thing about smth. - а) иметь предубеждение против чего-л.; не терпеть чего-л.; he has a thing about opening letters, and

never does - он терпеть не может, когда вскрывают (чужие) письма, и сам никогда этого не делает; б) быть жертвой

навязчивой идеи, помешаться на чём-л.

to have a thing about smb. - а) боготворить кого-л.; б) не терпеть кого-л.

to have a thing for smb. - иметь слабость к кому-л.; души не чаять в ком-л.

to do one's (own) thing - поступать в соответствии со своими интересами, желаниями **и т. п.**

to make a thing (out) of smth. - придавать (слишком) большое значение, раздувать что-л.

to make a good thing of smth. - извлечь пользу из чего-л.

to know a thing or two - знать кое-что; понимать /знать/ что к чему

to learn a thing or two - узнать /пронюхать/ кое-что

to show smb. a thing or two - показать кому-л. что к чему

to teach smb. a thing or two - научить кого-л. уму-разуму

to be up to a thing or two - кое в чём разбираться, кое-что знать

not to do a thing - палец о палец не ударить

not to be /to feel/ the thing - плохо себя чувствовать

I'm not quite the thing today - мне сегодня нездоровится

not to look the thing - плохо выглядеть

to see things - бредить, галлюцинировать

to go the way of all things - умереть, пройти земной путь до конца

thing

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

thing [thing things] **BrE** [θɪŋ] ^m **NAmE** [θɪŋ] ^m **noun**

OBJECT

1. countable an object whose name you do not use because you do not need to or want to, or because you do not know it

- Can you pass me that thing over there?
- She's very fond of sweet things (= sweet foods).
- He's just bought one of those exercise things.
- Turn that thing off while I'm talking to you!

2. countable an object that is not alive in the way that people and plants are

- Don't treat her like that— she's a person, not a thing!
- He's good at making things with his hands.
- She took no interest in the people and things around her.

POSSESSIONS/EQUIPMENT

3. things plural (rather informal) objects, clothing or tools that belong to sb or are used for a particular purpose

- Shall I help you pack your things?
- Bring your swimming things with you.

- I'll just clear away the breakfast things.
- Put your things (= coat, etc.) on and let's go.

ANYTHING

4. **a thing singular** used with negatives to mean 'anything' in order to emphasize what you are saying

- I haven't got a thing to wear!
- She hasn't had a thing to eat all day.
- There wasn't a thing we could do to help.
- Ignore what he said— it **doesn't mean a thing** .

FACT/EVENT/SITUATION/ACTION

5. **countable** a fact, an event, a situation or an action; what sb says or thinks

- There are a lot of things she doesn't know about me.
 - There's another thing I'd like to ask you.
 - A terrible thing happened last night.
 - He found **the whole thing** (= the situation) very boring.
 - I've got loads of things to do today.
 - **The main thing** to remember is to switch off the burglar alarm.
 - I like camping, climbing and **that sort of thing** .
 - She said **the first thing** that came into her head.
 - 'Why did you tell her our secret?' 'I did **no such thing** !'
 - Let's forget **the whole thing** (= everything) .
6. **things plural** (rather informal) the general situation, as it affects sb
- Things haven't gone entirely to plan.
 - (informal) Hi, Jane! **How are things** ?
 - **Think things over** before you decide.
 - **As things stand** at present, he seems certain to win.
 - **All things considered** (= considering all the difficulties or problems) , she's done very well.
 - Why do you make things so difficult for yourself?

WHAT IS NEEDED/RIGHT

7. **countable, usually singular** what is needed or socially acceptable

- You need something to cheer you up— I know just the thing!
- to say **the right/wrong thing**
- The best thing to do is to apologize.

THINGS OF PARTICULAR TYPE

8. **things plural** (formal) (followed by an adjective) all that can be described in a particular way

- She loves all things Japanese.

CREATURE

9. **countable** (used with an adjective) a living creature

- All living things are composed of cells.

PERSON/ANIMAL

10. **countable** (with an adjective) (informal) used to talk to or about a person or an animal, to show how you feel about them

- You silly thing!
- You must be starving, you poor things.
- The cat's very ill, poor old thing.

more at chance would be a fine thing **at** ↑**chance** _{n.}, a close thing **at** ↑**close** ²_{adj.}, a close run thing **at** ↑**close** ²_{adv.}, take it/things one day at a time **at** ↑**day**, to do the decent thing **at** ↑**decent**, be the done thing **at** ↑**done**, take it/things easy **at** ↑**easy** _{adv.}, in the nature of things **at** ↑**nature**, a near thing **at** ↑**near** _{adj.}, the only thing is... **at** ↑**only** _{adj.}, overdo it/things **at** ↑**overdo** push it/things **at** ↑**push** _{v.}, the real thing **at** ↑**real**, the/sb's scheme of things **at** ↑**scheme** _{n.}, the shape of things to come **at** ↑**shape** _{n.}, sure thing **at** ↑**sure** _{adj.}, as it/things turned out **at** ↑**turn** _{v.}, have it/things/everything your own way **at** ↑**way** _{n.}, work it/things **at** ↑**work** _{v.}

Idioms: ↑A is one thing, B is another ▪ ↑a good thing ... ▪ ↑all things being equal ▪ ↑all things to all men ▪ ↑and things ▪ ↑come to the same thing ▪ ↑do things to somebody ▪ ↑do your own thing ▪ ↑first things first ▪ ↑for one thing ▪ ↑have a thing about somebody ▪ it isn't my/his thing ▪ ↑it's a ... thing ▪ ↑it's one thing to do A, it's another thing to do B ▪ ↑know somebody a thing or two ▪ ↑last thing ▪ ↑make a thing of something ▪ ↑no bad thing ... ▪ ↑not know the first thing about somebody ▪ ↑not quite the thing ▪ ↑one of those things ▪ ↑one thing after another ▪ ↑one thing leads to another ▪ ↑onto a good thing ▪ ↑seeing things ▪ ↑there's only one thing for it ▪ ↑these things are sent to try us ▪ ↑thing is ▪ ↑things that go bump in the night ▪ ↑too much of a good thing ▪ ↑with one thing and another ▪ ↑... thing

Word Origin:

Old English, of Germanic origin; related to German **Ding**. Early senses included 'meeting' and 'matter, concern' as well as 'inanimate object'.

Synonyms:

situation

circumstances • position • conditions • things • the case • state of affairs

These are all words for the conditions and facts that are connected with and affect the way things are.

situation • all the things that are happening at a particular time and in a particular place: ▪ the present economic situation

circumstances • the facts that are connected with and affect a situation, an event or an action; the conditions of a person's life, especially the money they have: ▪ The ship sank in mysterious circumstances.

position • the situation that sb is in, especially when it affects what they can and cannot do: ▪ She felt she was in a position of power.

conditions • the circumstances in which people live, work or do things; the physical situation that affects how sth happens: ▪ We were forced to work outside in freezing conditions.

circumstances or conditions?

Circumstances refers to sb's financial situation; **conditions** are things such as the quality and amount of food or shelter they have. The **circumstances** that affect an event are the facts surrounding it; the **conditions** that affect it are usually physical ones, such as the weather.

things • (rather informal) the general situation, as it affects sb: ▪ Hi, Jane! ▪ How are things? ◇▪ Think things over before you decide.

the case • the true situation: ▪ If that is the case ▪ (= if the situation described is true) ▪, we need more staff.

state of affairs • a situation: ▪ How did this unhappy state of affairs come about?

situation or state of affairs?

State of affairs is mostly used with **this**. It is also used with adjectives describing how good or bad a situation is, such as **happy**, **sorry**, **shocking**, **sad** and **unhappy**, as well as those relating to time, such as **present** and **current**. **Situation** is much more frequent and is used in a wider variety of contexts.

in (a) particular situation/circumstances/position/state of affairs

the/sb's **economic/financial/social** situation/circumstances/position/conditions

(a/an) **happy/unhappy** situation/circumstances/position/state of affairs

to **look at/review** the situation/circumstances/conditions/things

Synonyms:

things

stuff • property • possessions • junk • belongings • goods • valuables

These are all words for objects or items, especially ones that you own or have with you at a particular time.

things • (rather informal) objects, clothing or tools that you own or that are used for a particular purpose: ▪ Shall I help you pack your things? ◇▪ Bring your swimming things.

stuff • [U] (informal) used to refer to a group of objects when you do not know their names, when the names are not important or when it is obvious what you are talking about: ▪ Where's all my stuff?

property • [U] (rather formal) a thing or things that are owned by sb: ▪ This building is government property. ◇▪ Be careful not to damage other people's property.

possessions • things that you own, especially sth that can be moved ▪ Prisoners were allowed no personal possessions except letters and photographs.

junk • [U] things that are considered useless or of little value: ▪ I've cleared out all that old junk from the attic.

belongings • possessions that can be moved, especially ones that you have with you at a particular time: ▪ Please make sure you have all your belongings with you when leaving the plane.

goods • (technical or rather formal) possessions that can be moved ▪ He was found guilty of ▪ handling stolen goods ▪.

valuables • things that are worth a lot of money, especially small personal things such as jewellery or cameras: ▪ Never leave cash or other valuables lying around.

personal things/stuff/property/possessions/belongings

to **collect/gather/pack** (up) your things/stuff/possessions/belongings

to **search** sb's/your/the things/stuff/property/belongings

to **go through** sb's/your/the things/stuff/belongings

Vocabulary Building:

Other words for thing

Instead of using the word **thing**, try to use more precise and interesting words, especially in formal written English.

aspect ▪ That was the most puzzling aspect of the situation. (▪ ...the most puzzling thing about...)

attribute ▪ Curiosity is an essential attribute for a journalist. (▪ ...an essential thing for a journalist to have.)

characteristic ▪ This bird has several interesting characteristics. (▪ There are several interesting things about this bird.)

detail ▪ I want to know every detail of what happened. (▪ ...everything about...)

feature ▪ Noise is a familiar feature of city life. (▪ ...a familiar thing in city life.)

issue ▪ She has campaigned on many controversial issues. (▪ ...many controversial things.)

matter ▪ We have several important matters to deal with at this meeting. (▪ ...several important things...)

point ▪ That's a very interesting point you made. (▪ ...a very interesting thing you said.)

subject ▪ The book covers a number of subjects. (▪ ...a number of things.)

topic ▪ We discussed a wide range of topics. (▪ ...a wide range of things.)

trait ▪ Her generosity is one of her most attractive traits. (▪ ...one of the most attractive things about her.)

Don't use **thing** after an adjective when the adjective can be used on its own: ▪ Having your own computer is very useful. ◇▪ Having your own computer is a very useful thing.

It is often more natural to use words like **something**, **anything**, etc. instead of **thing**: ▪ I have something important to tell you. ◇▪ I have an important thing to tell you. ◇▪ Do you want anything else? ◇▪ Do you want any other thing?

It is more natural to say a lot, a great deal, much, etc. rather than many things: ▪ I have so much to tell you. ◇▪ I have so many

things to tell you. ◇ She knows a lot about basketball. ◇ She knows many things about basketball.

Example Bank:

- Abby is just the sweetest little thing!
- Advertising on blogs is going to be the next big thing.
- All other things being equal, the bigger fighter should win.
- All things considered, I think we've done a good job.
- Among other things, I have to deal with mail and keep the accounts.
- Apologizing is never the easiest thing to do.
- As things stand at present, he seems certain to win.
- Books may one day become a thing of the past.
- Calling a doctor seemed the logical thing to do.
- Clear your painting things away.
- Clear your painting things= materials away.
- Come on kids, get your things together— we're going.
- Don't worry about it— just let things take their course.
- Entertaining people is the most natural thing in the world for her.
- Fame and fortune don't mean a thing if you don't have happiness.
- Hang on a second— I'll just take off my painting things.
- He apologized, and asked for a chance to put things right.
- He asked me how things were going.
- He did the decent thing and resigned.
- He did the right thing and went back to his wife.
- He hadn't washed up the dinner things yet.
- He has a funny way of doing things.
- He loses his temper at the slightest thing.
- He makes things out of wood.
- He offered to help, but she assured him she had things in hand.
- He's the nearest thing to a film star I've ever met.
- Her apology only served to make things worse.
- His new film seems like a sure thing= a certain success.
- I admit it was a foolish thing to do.
- I can't see a thing without my glasses.
- I did all the right things but I couldn't get the engine to start.
- I did my usual thing of losing my keys.
- I give thanks for every little thing.
- I have loads of things to do today.
- I have to work things out my own way.
- I haven't eaten a thing all day.
- I just don't know if things are going to work out.
- I managed to get on the train, but it was a close thing= I almost missed it.
- I managed to get on the train, but it was a close-run thing.
- I marched into his office to get a few things straight.
- I need to buy a few basic things like bread and milk.
- I want to get things sorted out before I go away.
- I wanted to be a musician, but teaching music is the next best thing.
- I'm going to arrive early because I don't want to miss a thing.
- I'm sure things will turn out OK.
- I've better things to do than stand here chatting all day!
- Iced tea— the very thing!
- If she works hard she's capable of great things.
- It might speed things up if you call them.
- It's a good thing you remembered to turn off the gas!
- It's impossible to get things done when you're looking after a baby.
- It's just a practice, not the real thing.
- It's no bad thing to express your anger.
- It's not the done thing to ask someone how much they earn.
- It's such a small thing to ask.
- Jack knows a thing or two about kids— he has five
- Let's forget the whole thing.
- Nobody said a thing when he appeared with a wig on.
- One thing led to another and we ended up dating.
- People defraud their companies every day, but Mike would never do such a thing!
- She always manages to say the wrong thing.
- She helped with the everyday things like shopping and cooking.
- She'd started the term studying hard, but now was beginning to let things slip.
- She's taken a few days off to think things over.
- She's tricked you, and you can't do a thing about it.
- Sorry, I didn't mean to complicate things.

- That was a horrible thing to say to her.
- That wasn't a very smart thing to do!
- The amazing thing is, he wouldn't accept any money!
- The baby's a pretty little thing.
- The best thing about Alan is he's always honest.
- The best thing would be to apologize straight away.
- The key thing is to remain calm.
- The last thing she wanted was to upset her parents.
- The pay cut was just a taste of things to come.
- There are plenty of things to say about it.
- There are some weird things going on in that house.
- There was a week to go to the deadline and things were looking good.
- There's no such thing as ghosts.
- There's nobody at the door— you must have been imagining things!
- They go canoeing, climbing, that sort of thing.
- They hired temporary staff to keep things going over the summer.
- They patched things up a week after their quarrel.
- Things came to a head when money was found to be missing from the account.
- Things looked bleak for the future of the factory.
- Too much studying can be a bad thing.
- Try not to let things get to you.
- Try to look at things from my point of view.
- Try to look on your rejection as a positive thing.
- We arranged to meet and talk things over.
- We chatted about school, but I could tell she had other things on her mind.
- We were in trouble but now things are looking up.
- What's the next thing you want me to do?
- Who's been saying things about me?
- Who's going to look after things while you're away?
- You must be starving, you poor thing!
- You should suggest changes, rather than accept things as they are.
- 'Why did you tell her our secret?' 'I did no such thing!'
- Don't treat her like that— she's a person, not a thing!
- He found the whole thing very boring.
- He ran down the hill, screaming like a wild thing.
- He's good at making things with his hands.
- He's just bought one of those exercise things.
- I like camping, climbing and that sort of thing.
- It's a good thing we got here early.
- She's very fond of sweet things.
- The cat's very ill, poor old thing!
- The main thing to remember is to switch off the burglar alarm.
- There are a lot of things you don't know about me.
- There's another thing I'd like to ask you.
- Turn that thing off while I'm talking to you!
- We didn't want the press to get hold of the story, but it might be no bad thing.

thing

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

thing **S1 W1** /θɪŋ/ *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ *noun*

[Language: Old English; Origin: 'meeting, council, thing']

1. IDEA/ACTION/FEELING/FACT [countable] an idea, action, feeling, or fact that someone thinks, does, says, or talks about, or that happens:

- People say things they don't mean when they are angry.
- It was a horrible thing to happen.
- I plan to do all the things I've been meaning to do for ages.
- The first thing to do is to give them food and shelter.
- That's a terrible thing to say.

do the right/decent/honourable etc thing

- I kept wondering if I was doing the right thing.

this/that/what sort of thing

- A priest has to arrange funerals, marriages, that sort of thing.
- Getting more American ideas into British business would be a good thing.
- 'I did no such thing,' he protested.
- I know a thing or two (=a lot) about dogs.
- In a democracy, it is no bad thing to be able to compromise (=it is good, even though it may not seem good).

2. OBJECT [countable] an object that you are talking about without saying its name, or whose name you do not know:

- What's that red thing?
- I'll just switch this thing off.
- There was a round metal thing on the path.

... and things (=and other similar things)

The shed is where we keep our tools and things.

3. CLOTHES/POSSESSIONS things [plural] especially British English clothes and possessions **SYN stuff American English**
sb's things

" Jim began to unpack his things.

" I want to sell some of my things, but they aren't worth much.

4. EQUIPMENT things [plural] especially British English the tools, equipment, clothes etc that you need for a particular job, sport etc **SYN stuff American English**

sb's writing/school/Christmas etc things

" I left my swimming things at home.

" the shed where he kept his gardening things

5. SITUATION things [plural] life in general and the way it is affecting people:

" By the end of 1942, things were starting to change.

" Things could be worse.

" As things turned out, we didn't have much time.

" How are things with you, Sarah?

make things easy/difficult/hard

" She would get angry quickly, which made things difficult for me.

" We can't change the way things are.

6. NOTHING [singular, uncountable] used as part of a negative statement to mean 'anything'

not a thing

" I couldn't find a thing that I wanted to buy.

" He took his glasses off and couldn't see a thing.

" Don't worry about a thing.

" There's no such thing as ghosts (=they do not exist).

7. PERSON/ANIMAL [countable] used to talk to or about a person or animal, when you are describing what they are like or showing sympathy for them:

" The baby is a nice little thing when he's not screaming.

" She was terribly upset, poor thing.

8. MAKE A COMMENT [countable usually singular] used to say something about a particular part of a situation, person etc

thing about

" The thing about teaching is that it takes more time to prepare than most people realize.

the funny/strange/best etc thing

" The funny thing is, I really enjoyed it, even though I hadn't expected to.

" It's a good thing you saw her before she saw you.

9. the thing is spoken used when you are going to explain something, give the reason for something, or give an opinion:

" 'It sounds like a good idea. Why don't you invest?' 'Well, the thing is, I can't afford to.'

the thing is that

" The thing is that you can't always judge your own work.

10. the last thing somebody wants/expects/needs etc something that someone does not want, expect etc at all:

" The last thing I want is to upset him.

" The last thing I should have done was let her move into my house.

11. last thing British English at the end of a day, afternoon, evening etc:

" She likes a hot bath last thing at night.

12. first thing at the beginning of a day, morning, afternoon etc:

" Jean liked to go for a swim first thing in the morning.

13. among other things used when you are giving one fact, reason, effect etc but want to suggest that there are many others:

" The substance is used in the manufacture of cosmetics and drugs, among other things.

14. for one thing used to give one reason for something:

" Well, for one thing, it's too big.

" He's not that wonderful. He's bad-tempered for one thing.

15. be a thing of the past to no longer exist or happen:

" Before AIDS, many health care experts believed that large-scale infectious diseases were a thing of the past.

16. it's a good thing (that) spoken used to say that it is lucky or good that something has happened:

" It's a good thing we brought some food with us.

17. something is just one of those things used to say that something unpleasant or unlucky cannot be prevented:

" It wasn't really the driver's fault; it was just one of those things.

18. the thing about/with somebody/something used to say what the problem with someone or something is:

" The thing about talk shows is that you never know how they will turn out.

19. all (other) things being equal used to say that something is true in general, but that other things may cause the situation to change:

" All things being equal, smaller animals need smaller brains.

20. just the thing/the very thing exactly the thing that you want or that is necessary:

" A holiday is probably just the thing for you.

21. of all things used to show that you are surprised or shocked by something that someone has done or said:

" She gave up a promising career as a stockbroker to become a weaver, of all things.

22. do your own thing informal to do something in the way that you like instead of copying other people or following strict rules:

" I just want to live my own life and do my own thing.

23. it's a girl/football/music etc thing informal used to say that something involves or affects a particular group of people only:

" Computer games aren't just a guy thing.

24. all things considered when you consider all the parts or events of a situation:

All things considered, we had surprisingly few injuries.

25. **be all things to all men/people** to try to please or be useful to all of many different groups, often without succeeding:
In order to get votes, he tries to be all things to all men.
 26. **be onto a good thing** *informal* if you are onto a good thing, you are in a situation that is very helpful, comfortable, or profitable for you
think/know you are onto a good thing
Directors who take dividends instead of salary may think they are onto a good thing but could have problems on retirement.
 27. **make a big thing of/about/out of something** to make something seem more important than it really is:
You can apologise without making a big thing out of it.
 28. **the done thing** *British English old-fashioned informal* the way of behaving or doing something that is socially acceptable:
It is not the done thing for teachers to hit children.
 29. **it's one thing to ..., (it's) another thing to ...**, used to say that doing one thing is very different from doing another thing, especially where the second thing is more difficult, important, or serious:
It's one thing being able to run fast, but quite another to win a marathon.
 30. **what with one thing and another** *British English spoken* used to explain that you have had a lot of work, problems, or jobs that you had to do:
I've been so busy these last few days, what with one thing and another.
 31. **have a thing about somebody/something** *informal* to like or dislike someone or something very much, often without a good reason:
She's always had a thing about Peter.
 32. **one thing leads to another** used to explain how a series of events caused something to happen without giving any details:
One thing led to another and, before I knew it, I had invited her family to stay.
 33. **the (latest) thing** *informal* something that is popular or fashionable at the moment:
When Amelia bought a new car it had to be the latest thing.
 34. **(do/try) the ... thing** *American English spoken* used to talk about an activity and everything that is involved with it:
Jody tried the college thing but finally dropped out.
 35. **there is only one thing for it** *British English spoken* used to say that there is only one action that you can take:
There's only one thing for it. We'll have to call the police.
 36. **one (damn/damned) thing after another** used to say that a lot of unpleasant or unlucky things keep happening to you
 37. **taking one thing with another** *British English* considering all the facts
 38. **do things to somebody** to have a strong effect on someone
- ⇒ **amount/come to the same thing** at ↑same¹(4), ⇒ **the best thing since sliced bread** at ↑slice²(4), ⇒ **first things first** at ↑first¹(7), ⇒ **living things** at ↑living¹(1), ⇒ **be hearing things** at ↑hear(10), ⇒ **be seeing things** at ↑see¹(28)
- • •

COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 3)

■ verbs

- **things go well/badly etc** If things went well, we would double our money in five years. | How did things go?
- **things change** Things have changed dramatically over the last few years.
- **things improve** Things appear to be improving.
- **things get worse** As the recession proceeds, things will get worse.

■ phrases

- **make things worse/easier/difficult** Measures to slow down traffic on the main street have actually made things worse.
 - **as things stand (=at present)** As things stand at the moment, I have no intention of becoming a candidate myself.
 - **as things turned out (=used to say what happened or was discovered in the end)** Obviously, there had to be some mistake. As things turned out, there was.
 - **the way things are (=the present situation)** I'm not at all dissatisfied with the way things are at the moment.
- • •

THESAURUS

- **thing** used when you do not need to say the name, or when you do not know the name: What's that thing on the kitchen table? | Have you got all your things?
- **something** a thing – used when you are not sure what the thing is: There's something on your shirt.
- **object** *especially written* a solid thing: a sharp metal object
- **item** *formal* a particular kind of thing, or one of a group of things: household items | a luxury item | an item of equipment | The items included pieces of old pottery. | You are not allowed to take sharp items onto the plane.
- **article** *formal* a particular kind of thing, or one of a group of things. **Article** is very formal, and is used especially in the phrase **an article of clothing**: They found several articles of clothing in the bushes. | suspicious articles | Each article has a card with it giving more information.
- **artifact** (*also artefact*) *formal* an object that someone has made, especially one that is very old and has historical value: The museum has a collection of early Roman artifacts.
- **thingy** (*also thingamajig /thingamabob*) *spoken informal* a thing – used especially when you cannot remember the name of the thing, but often the other person knows what you are talking about: Can you pass me the thingy?

thing

12500 **110**^{MCW}
15000 **93**^{COCA}
RANGE: **1k THING** 422839
thing 191580
things 231191
thingy 43

thingies 25

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

71093 **184**¹⁹¹²⁸⁸ *nn1*

91 **61876**¹⁴⁹ *nnu*

63 **94761**⁶⁵ *jj*

17 **192678**¹⁷ *pphs1*

12 **201704**¹⁶ *np1*

11 **245672**¹¹ *pph1*

6 **340515**⁶ *at1*

6 **349744**⁶ *ppis2*

5 **376541**⁵ *ddq*

5 **391122**⁵ *ppy*

4 **425331**⁴ *cs*

4 **450526**⁴ *pphs2*

4 **451107**⁴ *vbz*
