

1. [fɜ:st] *n*

1. (the first) первое (число)
on the first of May - первого мая
2. первый (человек) (*который что-л. делает*)
we were the first to arrive - мы прибыли первыми
he was among the very first - он был среди первых (*сделавших что-л.*)
3. начало
at first - сначала, сперва
at the first - (в) первое время
from the (very) first - с самого начала
4. получивший первую премию, первый приз *и т. п.*; получивший высшую оценку
to come in an easy first - прийти к финишу первым /намного раньше других/
5. степень бакалавра с отличием первого класса (*в университетах Великобритании*)
6. *муз.* самый высокий голос *или* самая высокая партия (*в дуэте, трио и т. п.*)
7. *pl* товар первого сорта, высшего качества
8. *pl горн.* лучшая кусковая руда; концентрат
9. место в первом классе (*какого-л транспорта*)
10. *бейсб.* = first base
11. *бейсб.* = first speed

2. [fɜ:st] *a*

1. первый (по счёту)
the first three years - первые три года
the first turning on the right - первый поворот направо
the first man I saw on arrival - первый, кого я увидел по приезде
I'll do it first thing - я сделаю это прежде всего [*ср.* 2, 4]
I'll call you first thing in the morning - завтра утром первым делом я позвоню вам
Peter the First - Пётр Первый
2. 1) первый по времени, самый ранний
the first flowers of spring - первые весенние цветы
the first writer of history - первый историк
- 2) первый (из следующих друг за другом), начальный
first form - первый класс (*в школе*)
first performance - первое представление, премьера
first round - первый раунд (*бокс*)
to succeed the very first time - добиться успеха с (самого) первого раза /с самого начала/
to wear a new dress for the first time - надеть новое платье (в) первый раз
his first experience under fire - его первое боевое испытание, его боевое крещение
- 3) первый, пробный
first attempt - первая попытка
first steps - первые шаги
- 4) первый, основной
the first thing to do - первое, что надо сделать [*ср. тж.* 1]
3. первый попавшийся; первый представившийся; любой
I'll do it at the first opportunity - я сделаю это при первой возможности
ask the first man you meet - спросите любого, кого вы встретите
4. первый, предварительный
first field dressing - индивидуальный перевязочный пакет
first working - *горн.* подготовительные работы
first tooth - молочный зуб
5. первый, передний (*о части чего-л.*)
first tier boxes - ложи первого яруса
the first row of seats - первый ряд (мест)
6. 1) первый, выдающийся, самый знаменитый
the first scholar of the day - самый крупный учёный своего времени
- 2) первосортный, самый лучший
articles of first quality - товар первого сорта
- 3) первый, ведущий
first violin /*бейсб.* fiddle/ - *муз.* первая скрипка
First Family - *амер.* семья президента
- 4) первый (*по величине, значению и т. п.*)
it is the first (important) city in the country - это самый крупный город страны
matter of the first importance - дело первостепенной важности
7. *грам.* первый
first person - первое лицо
first conjugation - первое спряжение
◇ first call - *амер. воен.* повестка (*утренняя или вечерняя зоря*)
First Commoner - спикер (*в палате общин до 1919 г.*)
first wing - надкрылье, первое крыло

first swarm - рой-первак (пчелиный)
 the first but one - второй по порядку
 in the first place - а) во-первых; прежде всего; б) вообще
 why did you speak about it in the first place? - зачем вы вообще об этом говорили?
 first and last - в общем и целом
 first or last - рано или поздно
 first and foremost - в первую очередь
 first, last and all the time - **амер.** раз и навсегда
 at first sight, at the first blush - с первого взгляда
 I haven't the first idea of what you mean - совершенно не представляю себе, что вы имеете в виду
 to play first fiddle **см.** fiddle I ◊
 first come, first served - первого первым и обслуживают

3. [fɜːst] **adv**

1. сперва, сначала

first of all - прежде всего
 to say first one thing and then another - сначала сказать одно, а потом другое
 I'll go there first - сначала я пойду туда

2. впервые

when he first went to war - когда он впервые попал на войну
 when did you first see him? - когда ты впервые встретил/увидел/ его?

3. скорее, предпочтительно

surrender? We'll die first - сдаться? Да мы скорее умрём

4. первым; в первую очередь

to stand first - быть первым; быть в первых рядах
 he arrived first - он прибыл первым
 he claimed the right to speak first - он требовал чтобы ему первому дали слово
 you go first - идите первым
 who plays first? - **карт.** чей первый ход?
 ladies first! - проходите, пожалуйста!; сначала дамы!
 women and children first - женщин и детей (спасать) в первую очередь
 to put first things first - отобрать/выделить/ самое важное

first

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

first [first **firsts**] **determiner, ordinal number, adverb, noun** BrE [fɜːst] **NAme**

[fɜːrst]

determiner, ordinal number

1. happening or coming before all other similar things or people; 1st

- his first wife
- It was the first time they had ever met.
- I didn't take the first bus.
- students in their first year at college
- your first impressions
- She resolved to do it at the first (= earliest) opportunity.
- King Edward I (= pronounced 'King Edward the First')
- the first of May/May 1st
- His second book is better than his first.

2. the most important or best

- Your first duty is to your family.
- She won first prize in the competition.
- an issue of the first importance

Rem: Most idioms containing first are at the entries for the nouns and adjectives in the idioms, for example on first acquaintance is at acquaintance.

Word Origin:

Old English fyr(e)st; of Germanic origin, related to Old Norse fyrstr and German Fürst 'prince', from an Indo-European root shared by Sanskrit prathama, Latin primus, and Greek prōtos.

Thesaurus:

first **det., adj.**

1.

- It was the first time they had ever met.

initial • **original** • **earliest** • **opening** • **introductory** • **preliminary** • |especially BrE, formal **preparatory** • |formal **technical primary** •

Opp: last

the first/initial/earliest/opening/introductory/preliminary/preparatory/primary **stage**

a/an first/initial/original/preliminary **estimate/draft/version**

a/an first/initial/preliminary **step/appointment/visit**

2.

- She won first prize in the competition.

top • • main • • key • • highest • • primary • • prime • |informal number one • |especially written foremost • |especially written journalism premier •

Opp: last

the/our first/top/main/key/highest/number one/foremost **priority**

the/our first/top/main/key/primary/prime/foremost/number one **concern**

(the) first/top/premier **division/prize**

Language Bank:

first

Ordering your points

▪ This study has **the following** ▪ aims: **first** ▪, to investigate how international students in the UK use humour; **second** ▪, to examine how jokes can help to establish social relationships; and, **third** ▪, to explore the role that humour plays in helping overseas students adjust to life in the UK.

Let us begin by ▪ identifying some of the popular joke genres in the UK.

Next, let us turn to ▪ / **Next, let us consider** ▪ the question of gender differences in the use of humour.

Finally ▪ / **Lastly** ▪, let us briefly examine the role of humour in defining a nation's culture.

notes at ↑**firstly**, ↑**lastly**

Language Banks at ↑**conclusion**, ↑**process**

Example Bank:

- First impressions can be misleading.
- I didn't take the first bus.
- If he wants to see me, he should make the first move.
- Local voters gave Steven Hughes first preference.
- My first impulse was to run away.
- She resolved to do it at the first opportunity.
- She's in her first year at college
- This is an issue of the first importance.
- We're having chicken for the first course.
- When the first settlers moved into the area they faced immense hardship.
- You can have first choice of all the rooms.

Idioms: ↑**at first** ▪ ↑**come first** ▪ ↑**first among equals** ▪ ↑**first and foremost** ▪ ↑**first and last** ▪ ↑**first come, first served** ▪ ↑**first of all** ▪ ↑**first off** ▪ ↑**first up** ▪ ↑**from first to last** ▪ ↑**from the first** ▪ ↑**put somebody first** ▪ ↑**there's a first time for everything**

adverb

1. before anyone or anything else; at the beginning

- 'Do you want a drink?' 'I'll finish my work first.'
- First I had to decide what to wear.
- Who **came first** in the race (= who won) ?
- It plunged nose first into the river.

2. for the first time

- When did you first meet him?

3. used to introduce the first of a list of points you want to make in a speech or piece of writing

Syn: ↑**firstly**

- This method has two advantages: first it is cheaper and second it is quicker.

4. used to emphasize that you are determined not to do sth

- She swore that she wouldn't apologize— she'd die first!

more at feet first **at** ↑**foot** _{n,} head first **at** ↑**head** _{n,} safety first **at** ↑**safety**

Word Origin:

Old English fyr(e)st; of Germanic origin, related to Old Norse **fyrstr** and German **Fürst** 'prince', from an Indo-European root shared by Sanskrit **prathama**, Latin **primus**, and Greek **prōtos**.

Language Bank:

process

Describing a process

▪ This diagram **illustrates the process of** ▪ paper-making. / This diagram **shows how** ▪ paper is made.

First ▪ / **First of all** ▪, logs are delivered to a paper mill, where the bark is removed and the wood is cut into small chips.

Next ▪ / **Second** ▪, the wood chips are pulped, either using chemicals or in a pulping machine.

▪ Pulping breaks down the internal structure of the wood and **enables** ▪ / **allows** ▪ the natural oils **to** ▪ be removed

Once ▪ / **After** ▪ the wood has been pulped, the pulp is bleached **in order to** ▪ remove impurities. / ...is bleached **so that** ▪ impurities **can** ▪ be removed

The next stage is to ▪ feed the pulp into the paper machine, where it is mixed with water **and then** ▪ poured onto a wire conveyor belt.

As ▪ the pulp travels along the conveyor belt, the water drains away. **This causes** ▪ the solid material **to** ▪ sink to the bottom, forming a layer of paper.

At this point ▪ the new paper is still wet, **so** ▪ it is passed between large heated rollers, which press out the remaining water and **simultaneously** ▪ dry the paper. / ...dry the paper **at the same time** ▪.

The final stage is to ▪ wind the paper onto large rolls. / **Finally** ▪, the paper is wound onto large rolls.

notes at ↑**firstly**, ↑**lastly**

Language Banks at ↑**conclusion**, ↑**first**

Which Word?:

firstly / first of all / at first

Firstly and **first** (of all) are used to introduce a series of facts, reasons, opinions, etc: = The brochure is divided into two sections, dealing firstly with basic courses and secondly with advanced ones. Firstly is more common in *BrE* than in *NAmE*.

At first is used to talk about the situation at the beginning of a period of time, especially when you are comparing it with a different situation at a later period: = Maggie had seen him nearly every day at first. Now she saw him much less.

Example Bank:

- Who came first in the race?

noun

1. the first countable (pl. **the first**) the first person or thing mentioned; the first person or thing to do a particular thing

- I was the first in my family to go to college.
- Sheila and Jim were the first to arrive
- I'd be **the first to admit** (= I will most willingly admit) I might be wrong.
- **The first I heard about** the wedding (= the first time I became aware of it) was when I saw it in the local paper.

2. countable, usually singular an achievement, event, etc, never done or experienced before

- We went on a cruise, a first for both of us.

3. (also ,first 'gear) uncountable the lowest gear on a car, bicycle, etc. that you use when you are moving slowly

- He stuck the car **in first** and revved

4. countable ~ (in sth) the highest level of university degree at British universities

- She **got a first** in maths at Exeter.

compare ↑**second**, ↑**third**

Word Origin:

Old English fyr(e)st; of Germanic origin, related to Old Norse fyrstr and German Fürst '**prince**', from an Indo-European root shared by Sanskrit prathama, Latin primus, and Greek prōtos.

Example Bank:

- As he moved into first the gear-leverknob came off in his hand.
- He got a first in modern history.
- It's very difficult to find first on this car.
- Put the car into first and pull off slowly.
- She did Philosophy and English Literature and got a double first.
- She engaged first gear and pulled off.
- There was something wrong with the gearbox and I had to drive all the way home in first.

first

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. first¹ S1 W1 /fɜːst/ fɜːrst *BrE* " *AmE* " *adjective*

[**Language:** Old English; **Origin:** fyrst]

1. IN A SERIES coming before all the other things or people in a series:

- Ella was his first girlfriend.

the first thing/time/day etc

- The first time I flew on a plane I was really nervous.
- In the first year, all students take five courses.
- He said the first thing that came into his head.
- the first step towards achieving a peace agreement
- There's a meeting on the first Monday of every month.

the first two/three/few etc

- I only read the first two chapters of the book.
- It rained during the first few days of the trip.
- The first and last mountain I climbed was Mount Rundle (=it was the only mountain I ever climbed).

2. for the first time used to say that something has never happened or been done before:

- For the first time in his life he felt truly happy.
- The survey revealed that, for the first time, there are more women in the workplace than men.
- Not for the first time she wondered how he coped with so many children.

3. MAIN most important:

- Our first priority is to maintain the standard of work.
- As I see it, my first responsibility is to my family.

4. in the first place

a) used to talk about the beginning of a situation, or the situation before something happened:

- Why did you agree to meet her in the first place?
- He wouldn't have given you the job in the first place if he didn't think you could do it.

b) written used to give the first in a list of reasons or points:

- Her success was secured by two factors. In the first place, she had the support of managers.

5. **in the first instance** *formal* at the start of a situation or series of actions:
 - " The appointment of research officer will be for two years in the first instance.
 - " Enquiries should be made in the first instance to the Human Resources Director.
6. **at first glance/sight** the first time that you look at someone or something, before you notice any details:
 - " At first glance the twins look identical.
 - " At first sight, there didn't appear to be much damage. ⇒ **love at first sight** at ↑love²(2)
7. **first things first** used to say that something should be done or dealt with first because it is the most important
8. **(at) first hand** if you see, experience, hear etc something at first hand, you see, experience etc it yourself, not through other people:

" Many people have seen the horrors of war at first hand. ⇒ ↑first-hand

9. **first prize/place** the prize that is given to the best person or thing in a competition

win/take first prize

" She won first prize in a painting competition.

first prize/place of

" There is a first prize of £10,000.

10. **first choice** the thing or person you like best:

" John was our first choice as a name for the baby.

11. **first thing** as soon as you get up in the morning, or as soon as you start work:

" I'll call you first thing tomorrow.

" We're leaving first thing.

12. **at first light** *literary* very early in the morning:

" The search will resume at first light tomorrow.

13. **make the first move** to be the person who starts to do something when someone else is too nervous, embarrassed etc to do it:

" He was glad she had made the first move and kissed him.

14. **not have the first idea about something** (*also not know/understand the first thing about something*) to not know anything about a subject, or not know how to do something:

" I wouldn't have the first idea about what to do in that situation.

" I don't know the first thing about cars.

15. **the first flush of something** the beginning of a good period of time when you are young, successful etc

be in the first flush of passion/youth etc

" He was no longer in the first flush of youth.

" The first flush of enthusiasm had passed.

16. **JOB TITLE** used in the title of someone's job or position to show that they have a high rank:

" the first officer

" the First Lord of the Admiralty

17. **first among equals** officially on the same level as other people but really having more power

18. **of the first water** *old-fashioned* of the highest quality

II. **first**² *S1 W2 BrE AmE adverb*

1. before anything or anyone else:

" Cindy and Joe arrived first.

" An extra five points will be given to the team that finishes first.

" First of all we'd better make sure we've got everything we need.

2. before doing anything else, or before anything else happens:

" I'll join you in a minute but I need to make a phone call first.

3. done for the first time:

" The book was first published in 2000.

4. at the beginning of a situation or activity:

" When we were first married we lived in Toronto.

" We first became friends when we worked together.

5. [*sentence adverb*] (*also first of all*) used before saying the first of several things you want to say **SYN firstly**:

" First, I'd like to thank everyone for coming.

6. **first off** *informal*

- a) before doing anything else:

" First off I'd like you all to fill in an evaluation sheet.

- b) used before saying the first of several things you want to say, especially when you are annoyed:

" First off I didn't agree with the comments in your email.

7. **first up** *British English spoken informal* used to introduce the first thing you are going to talk about, or the first thing that is going to happen:

" First up is the Blues song 'Mississippi Lad'.

8. **put somebody/something first** to consider someone or something as the most important person or thing:

" We need to choose energy policies that put the environment first.

" Businesses should always put the customer first.

9. **come first**

- a) to be the most important person or thing to someone:

" The care and well-being of patients should always come first.

" As far as I'm concerned, the children come first.

come first with

" Business always came first with Luke.

- b) to win a competition

come first in

The choir came first in all sections of the competition.

10. **first and foremost** used to emphasize the most important quality, purpose, reason etc:

Dublin is thought of first and foremost for its literary heritage.

11. **first and last** used to emphasize that something is the most important thing or quality:

She regarded herself as a teacher first and last, not a writer.

12. **first come, first served** used to say that something will be given to the people who ask for it first, when there is not enough for everyone:

Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

• • •

THESAURUS

▪ **first/firstly** used when mentioning the first in a list of reasons, arguments, or questions to consider: I want you to consider these three points in your essay: first, what is the writer's attitude to the war in this poem ... | There are several reasons for this conclusion. Firstly ...

▪ **first of all** used especially to emphasize that the first of several things you are going to say is the most important thing: The content of the article must, first of all, be accurate. | First of all, a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us over the last two years.

▪ **in the first place** *spoken* (also **for a start** *British English*) *spoken* used when giving the first and most important reason or example, especially when you are arguing or discussing something with someone: Our main priority should be better public transport – in the first place to reduce the amount of traffic on our roads. | He's not the right person for the job. For a start he's too young.

▪ **to begin with/to start with** *spoken* used when telling someone the first and most important thing that you want to say: There are numerous activities on offer. To start with there are over 60 miles of walks with splendid views. | Let me tell you something about him. To begin with, he is the most difficult man that I know.

III. first³ BrE AmE noun

1. **at first** used to talk about the beginning of a situation, especially when it is different now:

At first, Gregory was shy and hardly spoke.

I felt quite disappointed at first.

2. [countable usually singular] something that has never happened or been done before

first for

The 3–0 defeat was a first for the team.

These results are firsts in the history of women's athletics.

'I think he'll agree to it.' 'That will be a first.'

3. **from the (very) first** from the beginning of a situation:

I was against the idea from the first.

I should have known from the first that the relationship would never work.

4. [countable] the highest mark you can get in a university ↑**degree** in Britain:

Helen got a first in Law.

5. [uncountable] the lowest ↑**gear** in a car or other vehicle, that you use when moving slowly **SYN first gear**

in first

You should be in first on a hill like this.

He put the car into first and roared away.

IV. first⁴ BrE AmE pronoun

1. **the first** the first person to do something, or the first thing to happen:

There are now many similar housing projects but this was the first.

We hope this year's festival will be the first of many.

the first to do something

I always thought my sister would be the first to get married.

James was the first to arrive.

2. **the first I knew/heard** used when you have just discovered something that other people already know, and you are slightly annoyed:

The first I knew he was in York was when I got an email from him.

the first I knew/heard of/about

The first I knew about it was when Tony called me.

3. **the First** *spoken* used after the name of a king, queen, or Pope when other later ones have the same name:

Queen Elizabeth the First (=written as Queen Elizabeth I)

first

12500 **1946**^{MCW}

15000 **78**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** **FIRST** 504457

first 503753

firsts 362

firstly 342

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

127770 **84**⁴⁸⁴⁸⁴⁵ *md*

13871 **2367**¹⁸⁰⁵⁰ *rr22*

559 **27396**⁶⁴⁹ *jj*

100 64109¹³⁹ *np1*
50 102662⁵⁶ *nnu*
5 376448⁵ *cc*
5 391017⁵ *pph1*
4 450480⁴ *pphs1*
