# awkward

# ['ɔ:kwəd] a

# 1. неуклюжий, неловкий; нескладный

аwkward gait - неуклюжая походка he is still an awkward skater - он ещё плохо держится на льду to be awkward in one's speech [in one's movements] - с трудом говорить [двигаться] to be awkward with one's hands - не знать, куда девать руки the child is still awkward with a spoon and fork - ребёнок ещё плохо справляется с ложкой и вилкой **2. 1) неудобный** awkward door [handle, step] - неудобная дверь [ручка, ступенька] the machine is awkward to handle - на этой машине трудно работать **2) неловкий, неудобный; затруднительный** awkward situation - затруднительное *или* неловкое положение awkward question - щекотливый вопрос awkward time - неудобное время awkward pause - неловкое молчание to feel awkward with smb. - чувствовать себя неловко с кем-л.

## 3. разг. опасный; трудный (часто о человеке)

awkward blow - опасный удар

awkward customer - а) опасный тип; б) опасная тварь (о собаке и т. п.)

an awkward corner to turn - опасный поворот

don't be awkward, we have to get this finished by 5 o'clock - не выдумывай /не капризничай/, эту работу мы должны закончить к пяти часам

## awkward

## awk-ward BrE ['o kwad \* NAmE ['o kward \* adjective

## 1. making you feel embarrassed

- There was an awkward silence.
- I felt awkward because they obviously wanted to be alone.

## 2. difficult to deal with

#### Syn: †difficult

- Don't ask awkward questions.
- You've put me in an awkward position.
- an awkward customer (= a person who is difficult to deal with)
- Please don't be awkward about letting him come.
- It makes things awkward for everyone when you behave like that.

## not convenient

## Syn: †inconvenient

- Have I come at an awkward time?
- 4. difficult or dangerous because of its shape or design
- This box is very awkward for one person to carry.
- This tool will reach into awkward corners, such as under kitchen units.
- 5. not moving in an easy way; not comfortable
- He tried to dance, but he was too clumsy and awkward.
- I must have slept in an awkward position- I'm aching all over.
- Derived Words <sup>†</sup>awkwardly = <sup>†</sup>awkwardness

## Word Origin:

late Middle English (in the sense 'the wrong way round, upside down'): from dialect awk 'backwards, perverse, clumsy' (from Old Norse afugr 'turned the wrong way') + 1-ward.

## Thesaurus:

#### awkward adj.

- 1.
- She is awkward with people she doesn't know.

 $uncomfortable \ \cdot \ embarrassed \ \cdot \ self-conscious \cdot \ sheepish \ \cdot$ 

awkward/uncomfortable/embarrassed/self-conscious/sheepish about sth

an awkward/uncomfortable/embarrassed silence

a/an embarrassed/self-conscious/sheepish  $\ensuremath{\textbf{smile}}$ 

Awkward, uncomfortable or embarrassed? Embarrassed is used especially to describe how sb feels; uncomfortable can describe a situation; awkward often describes sb's personality or usual behaviour.

- 2.
- You've put me in an awkward position.
- problematic •• delicate •• sensitive |informal tricky a/an awkward/problematic/delicate/sensitive/tricky matter/situation a/an awkward/problematic/delicate/sensitive relationship
- a/an awkward/delicate/sensitive/tricky question/subject/problem
- 3.

• Please don't be awkward about letting him come.

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

# difficult • • perverse • • obstructive • • uncooperative • • unhelpful •

be awkward/difficult **about** sth an awkward/a difficult **customer** 

deliberately awkward/perverse/obstructive

## Example Bank:

- He always sounded awkward on the phone.
- He could make things very awkward for me if he wanted to.
- · He was embarrassed, which made him awkward.
- I was the most socially awkward person you could imagine.
- She asked some rather awkward questions.
- She is awkward with people she doesn't know.
- They felt awkward about having to leave so soon.
- Don't ask awkward questions.
- He can be an awkward customer.
- He was in an awkward situation and I thought he handled it very well.
- Please don't be awkward about letting him come.
- That's a bit awkward for me— could we make it earlier?
- There was an awkward moment when they asked about his wife.
- You've put me in an awkward position.

## awkward

## Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

## awk ward S3 /'ɔ□kwəd\$ 'ɒ□kwərd BrE AmE adjective

[Date: 1500-1600, Origin: awk 'turned the wrong way' (15-17 centuries) (from Old Norse öfugr) + -ward]

## 1. making you feel embarrassed so that you are not sure what to do or say SYN difficult:

- I hoped he would stop asking <u>awkward questions</u>.
- There was an awkward moment when she didn't know whether to shake his hand or kiss his cheek.
- an <u>awkward</u> silence
- A laugh can help people over an awkward situation.
  - Philip's remarks put her in an awkward position (=made it difficult for her to know what to do).

## 2. not relaxed or comfortable:

- <sup>\*</sup> She liked to dance but felt awkward if someone was watching her.
- Geofflooked uneasy and awkward.
- Make sure that the baby is not sleeping in an awkward position.

#### **3**. difficult to do, use, or deal with:

- It'll be awkward getting cars in and out.
- The new financial arrangements were awkward to manage.
- <sup>\*</sup> A good carpenter can make a cupboard to fit the most awkward space.
- <sup>\*</sup> She was afraid he was going to ask an awkward question.

## 4. not convenient:

<sup>\*</sup> I'm sorry to call at such an awkward time but I won't keep you a minute.

## 5. an awkward person is deliberately unhelpful SYN difficult

#### awkward about

- The staff wanted to go home and they were getting awkward about a meeting starting so late.
- an <u>awkward</u> <u>customer</u> (=person who is difficult and unhelpful)

#### -awkwardly adverb:

- " 'I'm very sorry about your sister,' he said awkwardly.
- Vera smiled awkwardly.

#### -awkwardness noun [uncountable]:

He tried to smooth over the awkwardness of the situation.

## awkward

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