

1. [ækt] *n*

1. дело; поступок

act of kindness - доброе дело

act of cruelty - жестокий поступок; проявление жестокости

2. акт, действие; деяние

criminal act - преступное деяние

unilateral act - односторонний акт, одностороннее действие

act of piracy - акт пиратства

act of delivery - роды

acts of force - действия, связанные с применением силы

act of war - акт агрессии, вооружённая агрессия

act of worship - богослужение

3. акт, закон; постановление; решение (суда)

constituent act - учредительный акт

act of Parliament - парламентский акт, закон

act of Congress - закон, принятый конгрессом

4. *юр.*, *дип.* акт, документ

act of the law - юридический акт

act and deed - официальный документ, обязательство

final act - заключительный акт (*конференции, совещания*)5. 1) *театр.* акт, действие2) *неодобр.* сцена

to put on an act - разыграть сцену, устроить спектакль

she does not mean it, it's just an act - у неё это не всерьёз, она просто прикидывается

3) номер программы (*в эстрадном представлении, в цирке и т. п.*)

the next act will be a magician [trained dogs] - следующий номер программы - фокусник [дрессированные собаки]

4) труппа, группа актёров, исполнителей

6. *унив.* диссертация7. (the Acts) *р/ употр.* с *гл.* в *ед. ч.* *библ.* Деяния апостолов8. *иск.*, *фото* акт, изображение обнажённой натуры

◇ to catch smb. in the (very) act (of doing smth.) - поймать кого-л. на месте преступления, поймать кого-л. с поличным

to be in the act of doing smth. - совершать что-л.; быть на грани совершения чего-л.

to get into /in on/ the /smb.'s/ act - принимать участие, быть в доле, примазаться /пристроиться/ к какому-л. /чьему-л./ делу

to get one's act together - *сл.* хорошо подготовиться; спланировать работу, привести в порядок /в систему/2. [ækt] *v*

1. 1) действовать, поступать; вести себя

to act immediately - действовать без промедления

to act wisely [foolishly] - вести себя умно [глупо]

to act bravely - проявить мужество; действовать смело

to act on /upon/ smth. - действовать в соответствии с чем-л.

to act on smb.'s suggestion - действовать по чьей-л. подсказке

to act on /upon/ advice - действовать по совету, поступать как советуют

2) (*часто for*) действовать, принимать участие (*в каком-л. деле и т. п.*)to act for smb. /on smb.'s behalf/ - а) выполнять чьи-л. функции; исполнять обязанности; замещать (*кого-л.*); б) действовать от чьего-л. лица

a solicitor acts for his clients - адвокат представляет интересы своих клиентов

to act on the defensive - а) обороняться, защищаться, занимать оборонительную позицию; б) *воен.* находиться в обороне3) действовать, работать (*о приборе и т. п.*)

brakes refused to act - тормоза отказали /не сработали/

2. влиять, воздействовать

to act on the emotions - воздействовать на чувства

these pills act on the liver - эти таблетки (плохо) действуют на печень

does the drug take long to act on the pain? - скоро ли подействует это болеутоляющее?

acids act on metal - кислоты воздействуют на металл

3. (up to) быть на высоте (*чего-л.*); соответствовать (*чему-л.*)

to act up to one's promise - сдержать обещание

to act up to one's principle(s) [opinions] - действовать в соответствии со своими принципами [убеждениями], поступать согласно своим принципам [убеждениям]

to act up to one's reputation - не обмануть ожиданий

4. (as) работать, служить; действовать в качестве ...

to act as interpreter - работать переводчиком

a trained dog can act as a guide to a blind man - дрессированная собака может служить слепому проводником /поводырём/

5. 1) *театр.* исполнять (роль), играть

to act the Ghost /the part of the Ghost/ in "Hamlet" - играть роль призрака в «Гамлете»

2) играть (*о пьесе, роли*)

his plays don't act well - его пьесы трудно играть, его пьесы малосценичны

3) *неодобр.* прикидываться, притворятьсяto act the fool - *разг.* разыгрывать простачка

he acted very angry - он сделал вид, что страшно рассердился
to act interested - притвориться/прикинуться/ заинтересованным
to act outraged virtue - разыгрывать оскорблённую невинность
◇ to act one's age - поступать /вести себя/ в соответствии со своим возрастом
act your age! - не веди себя как ребёнок!, брось ребячиться!

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

act

act [act acts acted acting] noun, verb *BrE* [ækt] ^m *NAmE* [ækt] ^m
noun

STH THAT SB DOES

1. **countable** a particular thing that sb does

- a criminal act
- ~ **of sth** an act of kindness
- acts of terrorism
- ~ **of sb** The murder was the act of a psychopath.

LAW

2. **countable** a law that has been passed by a parliament

- an Act of Congress
- the Banking Act 2009
- A Committee on Safety of Medicines was set up under the Act.

PRETENDING

3. **singular** a way of behaving that is not sincere but is intended to have a particular effect on others

- Don't take her seriously— it's all an act.
- You could tell she was just **putting on an act**.

IN PLAY/ENTERTAINMENT

4. **countable** one of the main divisions of a play, an ↑opera, etc

- a play in five acts
- The hero dies in Act 5, Scene 3.

5. **countable** one of several short pieces of entertainment in a show

- a **circus/comedy/magic act**

6. **countable** a performer or group of musicians

- They were one of rock's most impressive live acts.

more at clean up your act **at** ↑clean _{v.}, read (sb) the Riot Act **at** ↑read _{v.}

Word Origin:

late Middle English: from Latin **actus** 'event, thing done', **act-** 'done', from the verb **agere**, reinforced by the French noun **acte**.

Thesaurus:

act noun

1. C

- an act of kindness

action • • **gesture** • • **move** • • **step** • • **measure** • |formal **deed** •

a/an act/action/gesture/move/step/measure/deed by sb

an **kind/charitable/generous** act/action/gesture/deed

do/perform a/an act/action/deed

2. C

- Don't believe her— it's all an act.

front • • **mask** • • **cover** • |BrE **pretence** • |AmE **pretense** •

put on a/an act/front/mask/pretence

keep up a/an act/front/pretence

Synonyms:

action

measure • **step** • **act** • **move**

These are all words for a thing that sb does.

action • a thing that sb does: ▫ Her quick **action** saved the child's life.

measure • an official action that is done in order to achieve a particular aim: ▫ Tougher **measures** against racism are needed.

step • one of a series of things that you do in order to achieve sth: ▫ This was a first **step** towards a united Europe.

act • a thing that sb does: ▫ an act of kindness

action or act?

These two words have the same meaning but are used in different patterns. An **act** is usually followed by **of** and/or used with an adjective. **Action** is not usually used with **of** but is often used with **his, her, etc.**: ▫ a heroic act of bravery ◇ a heroic action of bravery ◇ ▫ his heroic actions/acts during the war. **Action** often combines with **take** but **act** does not: We shall take whatever acts are necessary.

move • (used especially in journalism) an action that you do or need to do to achieve sth: ▫ They are waiting for the results of the

opinion polls before deciding their next move.
to **take** action/measures/steps
to **make** a step/move
a **heroic/brave/daring** action/step/act/move

Example Bank:

- For Jane, the act of writing was always difficult.
- He does a little novelty act.
- He does a little song-and-dance act.
- He was arrested on suspicion of planning terrorist acts.
- He was caught in the act of stealing.
- He was charged under the Firearms Act of 1977.
- I have to work on my act.
- The 1995 act applies only to food and not to dietary supplements.
- The Act contains regulations for banks and building societies.
- The Act was passed by a majority of 175 votes to 143.
- The UN must perform a difficult balancing act between the two sides in the conflict.
- The cat had done a disappearing act.
- The club offers live music and cabaret acts.
- The company had breached the 1994 Companies Act.
- The company had violated the Data Security Act of 2006.
- The company says that the explosion was no accident but a deliberate act of sabotage.
- The group is merely a novelty act.
- The king is killed in the opening act.
- The main act will come on at about ten o'clock.
- The new Children's Act will become law next year.
- The old Act has now been repealed.
- The very act of writing out your plan clarifies what you need to do.
- Their contribution will prove a hard act to follow.
- Their new player looks a class act.
- a heroic act of bravery
- a private act of revenge
- charged with committing an act of gross indecency
- comedy double act French and Saunders
- horrific acts of violence
- images of African Americans performing heroic acts
- their reputation as one of rock's most impressive live acts
- A Committee on Safety was set up under the Act.
- Don't take her seriously— it's all an act.
- The children in the audience had come to see the magic act.
- The show includes clowns and other circus acts.
- This was one of the most appalling acts of terrorism of recent times.
- You could tell she was just putting on an act.
- You have committed a serious criminal act.
- an Act of Parliament/Congress
- an act of kindness/generosity/love/aggression/desperation
- his heroic actions/acts during the war
- the Higher Education Act 1965

Idioms: ↑act of God ▪ ↑do, perform, stage a vanishing act ▪ ↑get your act together ▪ ↑hard act to follow ▪ in on the act ▪ ↑in the act

Derived ↑act on behalf of somebody ▪ ↑act on something ▪ ↑act something out ▪ ↑act up

verb

DO STH

1. intransitive to do sth for a particular purpose or in order to deal with a situation

- It is vital that we act to stop the destruction of the rainforests.
- The girl's life was saved because the doctors acted so promptly.
- He claims he acted in self-defence.

BEHAVE

2. intransitive to behave in a particular way

- + **adv.** John's been acting very strangely lately.
- ~ **like sb/sth** Stop acting like spoilt children!
- ~ **as if/though...** She was acting as if she'd seen a ghost. In spoken English people often use **like** instead of **as if** or **as though** in this meaning, especially in **NAmE**.
- She was acting like she'd seen a ghost. This is not considered correct in written **BrE**.

PRETEND

3. intransitive to pretend by your behaviour to be a particular type of person

- **+ noun** He's been acting the devoted husband all day.
- **+ adj.** I decided to act dumb.
- He acts all macho, but he's a real softie underneath.

PERFORM IN PLAY/MOVIE

4. intransitive, transitive to perform a part in a play or film/movie

- Have you ever acted?
- Most of the cast act well.
- ~ **sth** Who's acting (the part of) Hamlet?
- The play was well acted.

PERFORM FUNCTION

5. intransitive to perform a particular role or function

- ~ **as sth** Can you act as interpreter?
- A five-year sentence should act as a deterrent to others.
- ~ **like sth** hormones in the brain that act like natural painkillers

HAVE EFFECT

6. intransitive ~ (on sth) to have an effect on sth

- Alcohol acts quickly on the brain.
- It took a few minutes for the drug to act.

see be/act your age **at** ↑age _{n.}, act/play the fool **at** ↑fool _{n.}, behave/act as if you own the place **at** ↑town _{v.}

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	act
	BrE /ækt/
	NAme /ækt/
he / she / it	acts
	BrE /æktz/
	NAme /æktz/
past simple, past participle	acted
	BrE /æktɪd/
	NAme /æktɪd/
-ing form	acting
	BrE /æktɪŋ/
	NAme /æktɪŋ/

Word Origin:

late Middle English: from Latin **actus** 'event, thing done', **act-** 'done', from the verb **agere**, reinforced by the French noun **acte**.

Thesaurus:

act verb

1. I

- They had to act quickly to save the girl's life.

especially journalism **take action** • • **move** • |especially spoken **do something** • |especially written **take steps** •

act/take action/move/take steps **against** sb/sth

act/take action/move/do something/take steps **to do sth**

2. I

- Ben's been acting very strangely.

behave • • **treat** • |formal **conduct yourself** •

act/behave/treat sb **as if/though/like...**

act/behave/treat sb/conduct yourself **properly**

act/behave/treat sb **reasonably/accordingly/differently/with dignity**

Act or behave? **Behave** is used to talk about how well sb has behaved, but not how fairly or legally:

- behave well/sensibly

✗ **behave unfairly/illegally** **Act** is used to talk about how sensibly, fairly or legally sb has behaved, but not how well:

- act fairly/unlawfully

✗ **act well/badly**

3. I

- I decided to act dumb.

pretend • |formal **feign** •

pretend/feign **interest/indifference**

4. I, T

- She is acting the role of Juliet.

play • • **perform** •

act/play/perform a **role/part**

act/perform in a **play/show/production**

act/play/perform sth **well/together**

Act or play? **Play** must take an object, but **act** can also be used without an object:

- He just can't act.

✗ He just can't play. A **play** or **film** is **acted**, not **played** :

- The film was well acted.

✗ The film was well played.

Example Bank:

- All citizens have a duty to act responsibly and show respect to others.
- George knew about the letter and acted accordingly.
- His defence was that he had acted in good faith.
- His lawyers are continuing to act for him.
- I suspected that he was acting out of malice.
- Jenny has been acting rather strangely recently.
- She is acting the role of Juliet.
- She was acting as if she owned the place.
- Stop acting like a spoiled child.
- The country's highest court ruled that police had acted unlawfully.
- The government must act promptly to change this law.
- The government needs to act against the sale of these dangerous toys.
- The government was criticized for failing to act decisively.
- The jury accepted that he had acted in self defence.
- The play is well acted.
- We are all acting in the best interests of the children.
- A five-year sentence should act as a deterrent to others.
- He acts all macho but he's a real softie underneath.
- He just can't act.
- He's been acting the devoted husband all day.
- I found myself acting the part of the happy newly-married wife.
- It is vital that we act to stop the destruction of the rainforests.
- John's been acting very strangely lately.
- Most of these drugs acted directly on the blood vessels.
- Nuclear and non-nuclear matter act on each other.
- She was acting as if she'd seen a ghost.
- The bacteria act on sugars to form acids.
- The girl's life was saved because the doctors acted so promptly.
- They acted at once/immediately/promptly/quickly/swiftly.
- We need to understand the forces that act on the spine.
- You acted very wisely in coming to me.
- to act wisely/out of character/fairly/unlawfully

act

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **act**¹ **S1 W1** /ækt/ BrE ^ˈ AmE ^ˈ *noun*

[Word Family: **noun**: ↑act, ↑action ≠ ↑inaction, ↑activity ≠ ↑inactivity, ↑reaction, ↑interaction, ↑overacting; **adjective**: ↑acting, ↑active ≠ ↑inactive; **verb**: ↑act ≠ ↑overact; **adverb**: ↑actively]

[Date: 1300-1400; Language: Latin; Origin: actus 'doing, act' and actum 'thing done, record', from the past participle of agere 'to drive, do']

1. **ACTION** [countable] one thing that you do:

- The new president's first act should be to end the war.
- a thoughtless act

act of (doing) something

- an act of violence
- her many acts of kindness
- The act of writing a list can help to calm you down.

in the act of doing something (=at the moment that you are doing something)

- Lindsay paused in the act of putting down the phone.

REGISTER

In everyday English, people usually say **a thoughtless/kind/stupid etc thing to do** rather than **a thoughtless/kind/stupid etc act**.

2. **LAW** (also **Act**) [countable] a law that has been officially accepted by Parliament or Congress:

- the Housing and Community Development Act of 1977
- an act of Parliament

3. **PRETENDING** [singular] insincere behaviour in which you pretend to have a particular kind of feeling or to be a particular kind of person:

- Mike played the loving husband in front of the children but it was all an act.
- Be natural. Don't feel you have to put on an act.

4. **get your act together** *informal* to become more organized and behave in a more effective way, especially in order to achieve something:

- You need to get your act together if you're going to find the right house to buy.

5. **PLAY** [countable] one of the main parts into which a stage play, ↑opera etc is divided:

- I arrived at the theatre late and missed the first act.

the beginning of Act 3

6. **PERFORMANCE** [countable] a short performance on stage or television by someone who plays music or tells jokes:
" The argument was just part of their act.
7. **PERFORMER** [countable] a performer or a group of performers who perform together:
" The band is one of many acts that have been booked for the concert.
8. **a hard/tough etc act to follow** someone who does such an excellent job that it would be difficult for someone doing the same job after them to be as good:
" He has been a very successful captain and will be a hard act to follow.
9. **get in on the act** *informal* to take part in an activity that someone else has started, especially in order to get a share of the advantages for yourself
10. **act of God** an event that is caused by natural forces, such as a storm, flood, or fire, which you cannot prevent or control
11. **act of worship** an occasion when people pray together and show their respect for God
12. **balancing /juggling act** a situation in which you are trying to do several different types of work at the same time
13. **do a disappearing /vanishing act** to be impossible to find when you are needed
⇒ **catch somebody in the act** at ↑catch¹(3), ⇒ **clean up your act** at ↑clean up(3)

• • •

COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 1)

nouns

- **an act of violence/aggression** Incidents of sexual harassment and acts of violence against women were on the increase.
- **an act of kindness/love** We were grateful for her act of kindness.
- **an act of faith** (=when you do something that shows you trust someone completely) The signing of the treaty with Britain was an act of faith.
- **an act of terrorism** (=when someone kills people or bombs a place for political reasons) It was the worst act of terrorism in US history.
- **an act of vandalism** (=when someone deliberately damages things, especially public property) These mindless acts of vandalism affect the whole community.
- **an act of defiance** (=when you refuse to obey or respect someone) As an act of defiance Leigh dropped out of high school a month before graduation.
- **an act of courage/bravery** The men were awarded the medals for acts of courage.

adjectives

- **a criminal/illegal/unlawful act** Starting the fire was a highly irresponsible criminal act.
- **a violent/aggressive act** We will track down those responsible for this violent act.
- **terrorist acts** terrorists acts like the Oklahoma City bombing
- **a cowardly act** (=not at all brave) The United States strongly condemns this cowardly act by murderous extremists.
- **a heroic act** (=very brave) Ordinary people sometimes find themselves performing heroic acts.
- **a deliberate/conscious act** Clearly this was a deliberate act of vandalism.
- **a symbolic act** (=something you do to express an idea or feeling) The Tibetan climber will pass the Olympic flame to his Chinese partner in a symbolic act of friendship.

verbs

- **commit an act** *formal* (=do something wrong or illegal) Anyone committing an illegal act deserves to be punished.
- **perform an act** (=do something, especially something difficult or useful) The nurses performed many small acts of kindness.

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COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 2)

verbs

- **pass an act** Once Parliament has passed an act, it becomes the law of the land.
- **introduce an act** In 1961, before the Divorce Law Reform Act was introduced, the divorce rate was only 2.1%.
- **amend an act** (=make small changes) In 1978 the act was amended to make the earliest mandatory retirement age 70.
- **repeal an act** (=officially end it) The Act was repealed by the incoming Labour government.
- **an act becomes law** In the 40 years since the Abortion Act became law there have been repeated attempts to amend or repeal it.
- **an act comes into force** Since the act came into force, all public buildings must have disabled access.
- **an act prohibits something** Section 47 of the Act prohibits the making of misleading statements to the police.

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THESAURUS

- **action** *noun* [countable] something that someone does: He is responsible for his own actions. | They refused to give a reason for their actions.
- **act** *noun* [countable] a particular type of action: violent acts | **act of violence/kindness/defiance etc**: I believe the killing was an act of desperation.
- **activities** *noun* [plural] things that people do, especially for enjoyment or to achieve an aim: leisure activities | political activities | Surveys may not give a true picture of people's activities.
- **behaviour** *British English*, **behavior** *American English* *noun* [uncountable] the things that someone does and the way they behave: Do you think that advertisements really influence people's behaviour? | The man's behaviour seemed rather odd.
- **move** *noun* [countable] something that you do in order to achieve something: Her decision to sell the shares had been a smart move. | It's a bold move to start a business in the current economic climate. | He needed time to figure out his next move.
- **step** *noun* [countable] one of a series of things that you do in order to deal with a problem or to succeed: The first step is to make sure we have got funding for the project. | We must take steps to make sure that this does not happen again. | This is an important step towards peace.
- **measure** *noun* [countable] an official action that is intended to deal with a particular problem: There are increased security measures at airports. | The school was closed as a precautionary measure following a chemical leak.

▪ **gesture** *noun* [countable] something that you do to show how you feel about someone or something: Do you think it would be a nice gesture to send her some flowers? | **gesture of goodwill/solidarity/defiance**: The company gave us £100 as a gesture of goodwill.

▪ **deed** *noun* [countable] *especially literary* an action, especially one that is very good or very bad: evil deeds | heroic deeds | This is my good deed for the day.

▪ **exploits** *noun* [plural] *formal* exciting or brave actions: daring exploits | His exploits were legendary.

▪ **feat** *noun* [countable] something someone does that people admire because you need a lot of skill, courage, or strength to do it: Completing a marathon is a remarkable feat for a six-year-old. | The bridge is a great feat of engineering.

II. **act**² **S2** **W1** *BrE* ^{AmE} *verb*

[**Word Family**: *noun*: ↑act, ↑action ≠ ↑inaction, ↑activity ≠ ↑inactivity, ↑reaction, ↑interaction, ↑overacting; *adjective*: ↑acting, ↑active ≠ ↑inactive; *verb*: ↑act ≠ ↑overact; *adverb*: ↑actively]

1. **DO SOMETHING** [intransitive] to do something in a particular way or for a particular reason:

▪ The company acted correctly in sacking him.

▪ The jury decided that Walker had acted in self-defence.

act to do something

▪ The UN must act now to restore democracy.

▪ Politicians will only act when enough people demand that they do something.

REGISTER

In everyday English, people often use expressions like **do the right thing** or **do a brave thing** rather than use **act** with an adverb such as **correctly** or **bravely**:

▪ *They acted correctly in telling her.* → They did the right thing in telling her.

When **act** is used alone to mean 'take action', in everyday English people usually just say **do something**:

▪ We have to do something now.

2. **BEHAVE** [intransitive always + adverb/preposition] to behave in a particular way:

▪ They acted unreasonably when they turned down Jill's application.

▪ He's been acting strangely ever since his Mom died.

act as if

▪ Pip acted as if he was better than everyone else.

act like

▪ Stop acting like a baby.

act with

▪ She acted with dignity.

act your age (=used to tell someone to behave in a more adult way, suitable for someone of their age)

3. **PRETEND** [intransitive and transitive] to pretend to have feelings, qualities etc that are different from your true ones:

▪ When he's angry, he acts the fool.

▪ That guy is acting crazy.

act a part/role

▪ Stella felt unnatural in their company, as if she was acting a part.

act as if/like

▪ Why does he act as if he was stupid?

4. **PLAY/FILM** [intransitive and transitive] to perform in a play or film:

▪ I first started acting when I was 12 years old.

act a part/role

▪ She is acting the role of Lady Macbeth six evenings a week.

▪ The movie is very well acted.

5. **HAVE AN EFFECT** [intransitive] to have an effect or use

act as

▪ The padding acts as a cushion if the player falls or is hit by the ball.

act on

▪ Disinfectants act on bacteria in two main ways.

6. **act for somebody/act on sb's behalf** to represent someone, especially in a court of law or by doing business for them:

▪ Makin, a solicitor, is acting for the young people in their case against the county council.

▪ I am acting on behalf of the bank. ⇒ ↑acting¹

act as something *phrasal verb*

to do a particular job for a short time, for example while the usual person is absent:

▪ My brother speaks French – he can act as interpreter.

act on/upon something *phrasal verb*

to do something because of another person's advice or order, or because you have received information or had an idea:

▪ She is acting on the advice of her lawyers.

▪ Police say they acted on information received.

act something ↔ **out** *phrasal verb*

1. if a group of people act out an event, they show how it happened by pretending to be the people who were involved in it:

▪ The children were acting out the story of the birth of Jesus.

2. to express your feelings about something through your behaviour or actions, especially when you have been feeling angry or nervous:

▪ These teenagers are likely to act out their distress by running away.

act up *phrasal verb*

1. if children act up, they behave badly:

- He's a tough kid and he acts up a lot.
2. if a machine or part of your body acts up, it does not work properly:
" The computer is acting up again.

act

12500 **435**^{MCW}

15000 **200**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** ACT 212824

act 50675

acted 7071

acting 16763

action 61273

inaction 761

actions 22817

actionable 206

acts 15098

actor 15948

actors 11611

actress 9321

actresses 1280

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

16928 **1506**²⁸⁰³⁵ *nn1*

11435 **2846**¹⁴⁹¹³ *vvi*

6217 **5040**⁷⁶⁰⁵ *vv0*

72 **84629**⁸¹ *nnu*

17 **192119**¹⁷ *jj*

5 **284274**⁹ *rr*

7 **297841**⁸ *np1*

7 **312772**⁷ *ddq*