

fail**1. [feɪl] n**

- 1) неудача, провал
- 2) провалившийся на экзамене
 - ◇ without fail - непременно, обязательно, наверняка
 - I'll come without fail - я обязательно приду

2. [feɪl] v

- 1) терпеть неудачу
 - to fail in life - быть неудачником (в жизни)
 - to fail in a suit - *юр.* проиграть процесс
 - he failed for want of foresight - он потерпел неудачу из-за своей недалёковидности
- 2) не сбываться, не удаваться
 - all our plans failed - все наши планы рухнули
 - his attempt has failed - его попытка не удалась
 - if our hopes should fail - если наши надежды не оправдаются
 - to fail the height - не взять высоту (*лёгкая атлетика*)
2. подводить, не оправдать ожиданий
 - as usual, he failed me at the last minute - как всегда, он подвёл меня в последнюю минуту
 - I'll be waiting for you, don't fail me - я буду ждать вас, не подведите меня
 - his heart didn't fail him - у него сердце не дрогнуло; он не испугался [*ср. тж.* 4, 1) и 5]

3. 1) быть недостаточным, не хватать

- time would fail me - у меня не будет времени, я не успею
- words fail me - я не нахожу слов, мне не хватает слов
- his courage failed him in the end - в конце концов у него не хватило мужества /он струсил/
- for once his wit failed him - на этот раз он не нашёл остроумного ответа

2) испытывать недостаток (в чём-л.)

- I fail words to express my thanks - у меня нет слов, чтобы выразить благодарность

3) уменьшаться в количестве; кончатся, иссякать

- our water supply has failed - у нас кончился запас воды, нам не хватило воды

4. 1) слабеть, ослабевать; терять силу

- the wind failed - ветер стих
- the light failed - свет погас
- daylight is failing - смеркается
- his health failed - его здоровье сильно пошатнулось
- his sight is failing - его зрение слабеет, он теряет зрение
- his heart is failing - у него сердце сдаёт [*ср. тж.* 2 и 5]
- he is old and failing rapidly - он стар и быстро теряет силы

2) замирать

- the radio signals failed - радиосигналы стали неразличимы

3) прекращаться, приходить к концу; вымирать

- their family line failed - их род угас
- this house belonged to them until their family line failed - этот дом принадлежал им, пока не умер последний представитель их рода /пока не кончился их род/

5. переставать действовать, выходить из строя

- the engine failed unexpectedly - двигатель неожиданно отказал
- the patient's heart failed - сердце больного перестало биться [*ср. тж.* 2 и 4, 1)]

6. *вчт.*, *лог.* не выполняться; быть ложным**II А****1. 1) проваливаться (на экзамене)**

- he failed in mathematics - он провалился по математике

2) провалить (кого-л. на экзамене)

- they failed two candidates - они провалили двух кандидатов

3) *разг.* завалить, засыпать (какой-л. предмет на экзамене)

- he failed chemistry - он провалился по химии
- she failed her driving test - она не сдала экзамен по вождению

2. не уродиться (о какой-л. культуре); быть небольшим (об урожае)

- the potato crop failed this year - в этом году картофельные уродили

3. терпеть крах, обанкротиться (о фирме и т. п.); прекратить платежи (о банке и т. п.)**II Б****1. to fail to do smth.****1) не суметь, не быть в состоянии, оказаться неспособным сделать что-л**

- we failed to arrive in time - нам не удалось приехать вовремя
- all precautions failed to prevent the quarrel - никакие предосторожности не смогли предотвратить ссору
- they failed to understand him - они оказались не в состоянии /не смогли/ понять его
- to fail to be moved - оставаться равнодушным
- his statements rarely failed to startle his hearers - его высказывания почти всегда поражали слушателей
- they could hardly fail to meet - они не могли не встретиться
- things that cannot fail to be seen - вещи, которых нельзя не заметить

we cannot fail to be conscious of it - мы не можем не сознавать этого

2) забыть сделать что-л.; не позаботиться о чём-л.

the janitor had failed to call the fire department - дворник не позаботился о том, чтобы позвонить в пожарную охрану

don't fail to let me know - не забудьте сообщить мне

3) не быть, не оказаться; не сделать

his name failed to appear in the list - его фамилия оказалась не включённой в список

the report cannot fail to arouse grave misgivings - доклад не может не вызвать серьёзных опасений

he never fails to write to his mother every month - он неукоснительно пишет своей матери каждый месяц

he did not fail to keep his word - он сдержал своё слово

2. *to fail in smth.* иметь какой-л. недостаток

to fail in beauty - быть некрасивым

to fail in respect for smb. - не уважать кого-л., непочтительно относиться к кому-л.

this novel fails in unity - в этом романе недостаёт внутреннего единства

he's a clever man but fails in perseverance - он умный человек, но ему не хватает упорства

his visit failed in its purpose - его визит не достиг цели /оказался неудачным/

fail

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

fail [fail fails failed failing] verb, noun BrE [feɪl] ^а NAmE [feɪl] ^а

verb

NOT SUCCEED

1. **intransitive, transitive** to not be successful in achieving sth

- Many diets fail because they are boring.
- a failing school
- ~ **in sth** I failed in my attempt to persuade her.
- ~ **to do sth** She failed to get into art college.
- The song **can't fail** to be a hit (= definitely will be a hit) .

NOT DO STH

2. **intransitive** to not do sth

- ~ **to do sth** He failed to keep the appointment.
- She never fails to email every week.
- **I fail to see** (= I don't understand) why you won't even give it a try.
- ~ **in sth** He felt he would be failing in his duty if he did not report it.

TEST/EXAM

3. **transitive, intransitive** to not pass a test or an exam; to decide that sb/sth has not passed a test or an exam

- ~ **(sth)** He failed his driving test.
- She was disqualified after failing a drugs test.
- What will you do if you fail?
- ~ **sb** The examiners failed over half the candidates.

Opp: ↑pass

OF MACHINES/PARTS OF BODY

4. **intransitive** to stop working

- The brakes on my bike failed half way down the hill.

OF HEALTH/SIGHT

5. **intransitive** (especially in the progressive tenses) to become weak

- Her eyesight is failing.
- His last months in office were marred by failing health.

DISAPPOINT SB

6. **transitive** ~ **sb** to disappoint sb; to be unable to help when needed

- When he lost his job, he felt he had failed his family.
- She tried to be brave, but her courage failed her.
- (**figurative**) **Words fail me** (= I cannot express how I feel) .

NOT BE ENOUGH

7. **intransitive** to not be enough when needed or expected

- The crops failed again last summer.
- The rains had failed and the rivers were dry.

OF COMPANY/BUSINESS

8. **intransitive** to be unable to continue

- Several banks failed during the recession.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	fail
	BrE /feɪl/
	NAmE /feɪl/
he / she / it	fails
	BrE /feɪz/
	NAmE /feɪz/
past simple, past participle	failed
	BrE /feɪd/
	NAmE /feɪd/
-ing form	failing
	BrE /feɪlɪŋ/
	NAmE /feɪlɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old French **faillir** (verb), **faille** (noun), based on Latin **fallere** 'deceive' .

Thesaurus:

fail verb

1. I, T

• Opponents say it's a policy doomed to fail.

go wrong • **collapse** • **break down** • **backfire** • **fall through** • **get/go nowhere** • **come to nothing** • |formal **founder** •

Opp: succeed

a **plan** fails/goes wrong/backfires/falls through/comes to nothing/founders

a **relationship/marriage** fails/goes wrong/collapses/breaks down

talks fail/collapse/break down/fall through/founder

a **project** fails/collapses/falls through/founders

2. T, I

• She never fails to email every week.

forget • |formal **neglect** • |especially BrE, formal **omit** •

fail/forget/neglect/omit **to do sth**

completely /totally/almost/never /conveniently fail/forget to do sth

3. I, T

• He failed his driving test.

especially AmE, informal **flunk** •

Opp: pass

fail/flunk a/an **exam /examination /test/course**

Example Bank:

- I tried to cheer her up, but failed miserably.
- Others have tried and failed.
- She came up with several plans that failed spectacularly before finally achieving success.
- That joke never fails.
- The authorities have totally failed to address this problem.
- The show didn't just fail, it failed spectacularly.
- The song can't fail to be a hit.
- an enterprise that was doomed to fail from the start
- A high percentage of businesses fail because of the collapse of a major customer.
- Businesses fail because they can't pay their bills.
- I fail to see why you won't even give it a try.
- More banks failed as people rushed to withdraw their money.
- My car failed its MOT.
- Once a student has failed on a few tasks, they lose motivation.
- Opponents say it's a policy doomed to fail.
- She tried to put an all-women crew together, but failed dismally.
- The air-conditioning system failed on the hottest day of the year.
- The brakes on my bike failed halfway down the hill.
- They had tried and they had failed.
- Words fail me.

Idioms: ↑if all else fails ▪ ↑without fail

noun

the result of an exam in which a person is not successful

- I got three passes and one fail.

Opp: ↑pass

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old French **faillir** (verb), **faille** (noun), based on Latin **fallere** 'deceive' .

failI. **fail**¹ **S2 W1** /feɪl/ *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ *verb*

[Word Family: noun: ↑fail, ↑failure, ↑failing; adjective: ↑failed, ↑unfailing; verb: ↑fail; adverb: unfaithfully]

[Date: 1200-1300; Language: Old French; Origin: faillir, from Latin fallere 'to deceive, disappoint']

1. **NOT SUCCEED** [intransitive] to not succeed in achieving something:

It looks likely that the peace talks will fail.

fail in

He failed in his attempt to regain the world title.

fail to do something

Doctors failed to save the girl's life.

Millions of people have tried to quit smoking and failed miserably (=been completely unsuccessful).

his efforts to save his failing marriage

If all else fails, you may be advised to have an operation.

2. **NOT DO SOMETHING** [intransitive] to not do what is expected, needed, or wanted**fail to do something**

The letter failed to arrive.

Firms that fail to take advantage of the new technology will go out of business.

The government are failing in their duty to protect people.

REGISTER**Fail to do** something is used mainly in writing and in formal contexts. In everyday English, people usually say **do not do** something instead:▪ *The letter failed to arrive.* → The letter didn't arrive.3. **EXAM/TEST**

a) [intransitive and transitive] to not pass a test or examination:

I failed my driving test the first time I took it.

He failed maths but passed all his other subjects.

b) [transitive] to decide that someone has not passed a test or examination:

Her work was so bad that I had no choice but to fail her.

4. **I fail to see/understand** *formal* used to show that you are annoyed by something that you do not accept or understand:

I fail to see why you find it so amusing.

5. **COMPANY/BUSINESS** [intransitive] if a company or business fails, it is unable to continue because of a lack of money6. **MACHINE/BODY PART** [intransitive] if a part of a machine or an organ in your body fails, it stops working:

The engine failed on take-off.

The hospital said that his kidneys were failing.

7. **HEALTH** [intransitive] if your sight, memory, health etc is failing, it is gradually getting weaker or is not as good as it was:

Failing eyesight forced him to retire early.

8. **never fail to do something** to do something or happen so regularly that people expect it:

My grandson never fails to phone me on my birthday.

9. **your courage/will/nerve fails (you)** if your courage etc fails, or if it fails you, you suddenly do not have it when you need it:

She had to leave immediately, before her courage failed her.

10. **fail somebody** to not do what someone has trusted you to do **SYN let somebody down**:

I feel I've failed my children by not spending more time with them.

11. **CROPS** [intransitive] if crops fail, they do not grow or produce food, for example because of bad weather12. **RAINS** [intransitive] if the ↑rains (=a lot of rain that falls at a particular time each year) fail, they do not come when expected or it does not rain enough⇒ **words fail me** at ↑word¹(28)

• • •

THESAURUS▪ **fail** to not succeed – used about people, plans, methods etc: The plan failed. | They failed to persuade her to change her mind. | This method never fails.▪ **go wrong** if something you do goes wrong, it fails after starting well: The experiment went wrong when the chemicals combined to form a poisonous gas.▪ **not work** if something does not work, it does not do what you want it to do: The drugs don't work. | I tried to fix it with glue, but that didn't work.▪ **be unsuccessful** /ˌʌnsək'sesfəl/ to not have the result you wanted: His first attempt to get a teaching job was unsuccessful. | The search was unsuccessful.▪ **be a failure** to be unsuccessful, with the result that you have wasted your efforts: The government's 5-year plan to modernize the economy was a complete failure.▪ **backfire** if a plan or action backfires, it does the opposite of what it was intended to do: His plan to get attention backfired, and instead of being promoted he lost his job.▪ **in vain** if you try to do something in vain, you fail to do it: They tried in vain to save him. | All her efforts had been in vain.II. **fail**² *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ *noun*

[Word Family: noun: ↑fail, ↑failure, ↑failing; adjective: ↑failed, ↑unfailing; verb: ↑fail; adverb: unfaithfully]

1. **without fail**

a) if you do something without fail, you always do it:

Tim visits his mother every day without fail.

b) used to tell someone very firmly that they must do something:

I want that work finished by tomorrow, without fail!

2. [countable] an unsuccessful result in a test or examination **OPP pass:**

I got a fail in history.

fail

Frequency Pack

12500 **604**^{MCW}

15000 **828**^{COCA}

RANGE: **2k FAIL** 56239

fail 12195

failed 29604

failing 7729

failings 764

fails 5549

unfailing 161

unfailingly 237

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

5553 **5674**⁶⁶²⁷ *vv0*

4502 **6737**⁵³⁰³ *vvi*

243 **46832**²⁵¹ *nn1*

14 **214321**¹⁴ *nnu*