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Dictionary of Contemporary English

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stand¹ *verb*

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stand *past tense and past participle stood*

- 1 **BE ON FEET** *also be standing up* [intransitive] to support yourself on your feet or be in an upright position:

It looks like we'll have to stand - there are no seats left.

She stood in the doorway.

Stand still (=do not move) and listen to me.

Don't just stand there (=stand and not do anything) - help me!

stand on tiptoe/stand on your toes (=support yourself on your toes)

If he stood on tiptoe, he could reach the shelf.

stand (somewhere) doing something

They just stood there laughing.

We stood watching the rain fall.

- 2 **RISE** *also stand up* [intransitive] to rise to an upright position:

Smiling, she stood and closed the blinds.

- 3 **STEP** [intransitive always + adverb/preposition]

a) to step a short distance

stand back/aside

She stood back to let him in.

stand clear of something *British English* (=step away from something in order to be safe)

Stand clear of the doors, please.

b) *British English* to accidentally step on or in something

stand on/in

Don't stand in that puddle!

- 4 **IN A PARTICULAR POSITION** [intransitive, transitive usually + adverb/preposition] to be upright in a particular position, or to put something or someone somewhere in an upright position:

A lamp stood on the table.

Near the railway station stood a hotel.

Some remains of the original house still stand.

stand something on/in etc something

Can you stand that pole in the corner for now?

I closed the lid and stood the case against the wall.

stand somebody (up) on something

Stand Molly up on a chair so she can see.

- 5 **IN A STATE/CONDITION** [linking verb] to be or stay in a particular state or condition:

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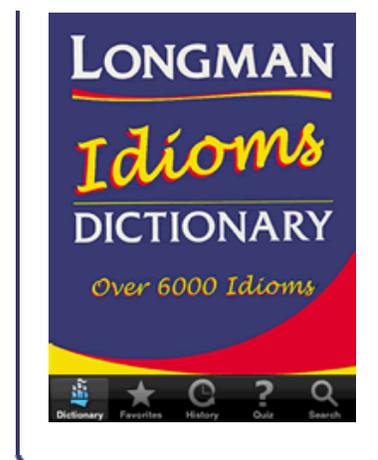
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🔊 *The kitchen door stood open so she went in.*

stand empty/idle (=not being used)

🔊 *scores of derelict houses standing empty*

🔊 *I'm not too thrilled with the way things stand* (=the state that the situation is in) *at the moment.*

🔊 *The evidence as it stands* (=as it is now) *cannot be conclusive.*

where/how do things stand? (=used to ask what is happening in a situation)

🔊 *Where do things stand in terms of the budget?*

🔊 *I will know within the next month or two how I stand* (=what my situation is).

stand united/divided (=agree or disagree completely)

🔊 *He urged the whole community to stand united and to reject terrorism.*

stand prepared/ready to do something (=be prepared to do something whenever it is necessary)

🔊 *We should stand ready to do what is necessary to guarantee the peace.*

🔊 *countries that have stood together* (=stayed united) *in times of crisis*

stand in awe of somebody (=admire them, be afraid of them, or both)

- 6 **NOT LIKE** **can't stand** *spoken* used to say that you do not like someone or something at all, or that you think that something is extremely unpleasant [= can't bear]:

🔊 *I can't stand bad manners.*

🔊 *I know he can't stand the sight of me.*

can't stand (somebody/something) doing something

🔊 *Lily can't stand working in an office.*

🔊 *I can't stand people smoking around me when I'm eating.*

can't stand to do something

🔊 *She can't stand to hear them arguing.*

- 7 **ACCEPT A SITUATION** [**transitive usually in questions and negatives**] to be able to accept or deal well with a difficult situation [= tolerate]

can/could stand something

🔊 *I couldn't stand the thought of leaving Danielle.*

🔊 *I've had about as much as I can stand of your arguing!*

🔊 *I don't know if I can stand the waiting any longer.*

can stand somebody doing something

🔊 *How can you stand Marty coming home late all the time?*

🔊 *She's a strong woman who stands no nonsense from anyone.*

- 8 **BE GOOD ENOUGH** [**transitive**] to be good or strong enough to last a long time or to experience a particular situation without being harmed, damaged, etc:

🔊 *Linen can stand very high temperatures.*

🔊 *His poetry will stand the test of time* (=stay popular).

- 9 **stand to do something** to be likely to do or have something
stand to gain/lose/win/make

- 🔊 *What do firms think they stand to gain by merging?*
- 🔊 *After the oil spill, thousands of fishermen stand to lose their livelihoods.*

10 **NOT MOVE** [intransitive] to stay in a particular place without moving
[↔ standstill]:

- 🔊 *The car's been standing in the garage for weeks.*
- 🔊 *The mixture was left to stand at room temperature for 15 minutes.*
- 🔊 *The train was already standing at the platform.*

11 **HEIGHT** [linking verb] *formal* to be a particular height:

- 🔊 *The trophy stands 5 feet high.*
- 🔊 *John stood 6 feet tall.*

12 **LEVEL/AMOUNT** [linking verb] to be at a particular level or amount
stand at

- 🔊 *His former workforce of 1,300 now stands at 220.*
- 🔊 *Illiteracy rates are still thought to stand above 50 percent.*

13 **RANK/POSITION** [intransitive always + adverb/preposition] to have a particular rank or position when compared with similar things or people [= rank]:

- 🔊 *The president stands high in the public opinion polls.*
- 🔊 *How do their sales stand in relation to those of similar firms?*
- 🔊 *His book could stand alongside the best.*

14 **ELECTION** [intransitive] *British English* to try to become elected to a council, parliament etc [= *run American English*]

stand for

- 🔊 *She announced her intention to stand for Parliament.*

15 **DECISION/OFFER** [intransitive not in progressive] if a decision, offer etc stands, it continues to exist, be correct, or be **VALID**:

- 🔊 *Despite protests, the official decision stood.*
- 🔊 *My offer of help still stands.*

16 **if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen** used to tell someone that they should leave a job or situation if they cannot deal with its difficulties

17 **somebody/something could stand something** used to say very directly that it would be a good idea for someone to do something or for something to happen:

- 🔊 *His smile exposed teeth that could stand a good scrubbing.*

somebody could stand to do something

- 🔊 *My doctor told me I could stand to lose a few pounds.*

18 **I stand corrected** *spoken formal* used to admit that your opinion or something that you just said was wrong

19 **where somebody stands** someone's opinion about something
where somebody stands on

- 🔊 *We still do not know where he stands on the matter.*
- 🔊 *You must decide where you stand.*

20 **from where I stand** *spoken* according to what I know or feel:

- 🔊 *I knew from where I stood that the stocks were practically worthless.*

21 **know where you stand (with somebody)** to know how someone feels about you, or what you are allowed to do in a particular situation:

- 🔊 *At least we know where we stand with Steven now.*
- 🔊 *I'd like to know where I stand.*
- 🔊

It helps to know where you stand legally.

- 22 stand to attention** *British English* ; **stand at attention** *American English* if soldiers stand to attention, they stand very straight and stiff to show respect
- 23 stand on your head/hands** to support yourself on your head or hands, with your feet in the air
- 24 stand in line** *American English* to wait in a line of people until it is your turn to do something [= **queue** *British English*]
 🗣️ *Customers stood in line for 20 minutes at the cash register.*
- 25 stand firm/stand fast**
 a) to refuse to be forced to move backwards:
 🗣️ *She stood firm, blocking the entrance.*
 b) to refuse to change your opinions, intentions, or behaviour:
 🗣️ *The government continued to stand firm and no concessions were made.*
stand firm/stand fast on/against
 🗣️ *He stands firm on his convictions.*
- 26 stand pat** *American English* to refuse to change a decision, plan etc
stand pat on
 🗣️ *Harry's standing pat on his decision to fire Janice.*
- 27 stand alone**
 a) to continue to do something alone, without help from anyone else:
 🗣️ *Some of the Pacific islands are too small to stand alone as independent states.*
 b) to be much better than anything or anyone else:
 🗣️ *For sheer entertainment value, Kelly stood alone.*
- 28 stand still** to not change or progress at all, even though time has passed:
 🗣️ *No industry can stand still.*
 🗣️ *Time seems to have stood still in this lovely hotel.*
- 29 stand a chance/hope (of doing something)** to be likely to be able to do something or to succeed:
 🗣️ *You'll stand a better chance of getting a job with a degree.*
 🗣️ *Maybe their relationship had never really stood a chance.*
- 30 stand in somebody's way** *also stand in the way* to prevent someone from doing something:
 🗣️ *I always encouraged Brian. I didn't want to stand in his way.*
 🗣️ *You can't stand in the way of progress!*
- 31 stand on your own (two) feet** to be able to do what you need to do, earn your own money, etc without help from others:
 🗣️ *She's never learned to stand on her own feet.*
- 32 it stands to reason (that)** used to say that something should be completely clear to anyone who is sensible:
 🗣️ *It stands to reason that you cannot find the right person to do a job unless you know exactly what that job is.*
- 33 stand or fall by/on something** to depend on something for success:
 🗣️ *The case against him will stand or fall on its own merits.*
- 34 LIQUID [intransitive]** a liquid that stands does not flow or is not made to move:
 🗣️ *standing pools of marsh water*
- 35 stand guard (over somebody/something)** to watch someone or

something so that they do not do anything wrong or so that nothing bad happens to them:

🔊 *Soldiers stand guard on street corners.*

🔊 *You must stand guard over him at all times.*

36 stand bail *British English* to promise to pay money if someone does not return to a court of law to be judged

37 stand trial to be brought to a court of law to have your case examined and judged

stand trial for/on

🔊 *Gresham will stand trial for murder.*

🔊 *The accused was ordered to stand trial on a number of charges.*

38 stand accused (of something)

a) to be the person in a court of law who is being judged for a crime:

🔊 *The former president stands accused of lying to the nation's parliament.*

b) if you stand accused of doing something bad or wrong, other people say that you have done it:

🔊 *The radio station stands accused of racism.*

39 stand tall

a) to stand with your back straight and your head raised:

🔊 *Stand tall with your feet comfortably apart.*

b) *American English* to be proud and feel ready to deal with anything:

🔊 *We will stand tall and fight for issues of concern to our community.*

40 somebody can do something standing on their head *informal* used to say that someone is able to do something easily:

🔊 *This is basic stuff. I can do it standing on my head.*

41 be stood on its head if something is stood on its head, it becomes the opposite of what it was before:

🔊 *One area of the business which has been stood on its head is internal communications.*

42 not stand on ceremony *British English* to not worry about the formal rules of polite behaviour:

🔊 *Come on, Mal, don't stand on ceremony here at home.*

43 stand somebody a drink/meal etc *British English* to pay for something as a gift to someone:

🔊 *Come on, Jack, I'll stand you a drink if you like.*

→ make somebody's hair stand on end at **HAIR (8)** → leave somebody/something standing at **LEAVE¹ (15)** → not have a leg to stand on at **LEG¹ (7)** → stand/serve/hold somebody in good stead at **STEAD (2)** → stand your ground at **GROUND¹ (7)**

stand against somebody/something *phrasal verb*

to oppose a person, organization, plan, decision etc:

🔊 *She hadn't the strength to stand against her aunt's demands.*

🔊 *There are only a hundred of them standing against an army of 42,000 troops.*

stand around *phrasal verb*

to stand somewhere and not do anything:

🔊 *We stood around saying goodbye for a while.*

stand by *phrasal verb*

1 to not do anything to help someone or prevent something from happening [↔ bystander]:

👂 *I'm not going to stand by and see her hurt.*

2 stand by something to keep a promise, agreement etc, or to say that something is still true:

👂 *I stand by what I said earlier.*

👂 *He stood by his convictions.*

3 stand by somebody to stay loyal to someone and support them, especially in a difficult situation:

👂 *His wife stood by him during his years in prison.*

4 to be ready to do something if necessary [**→ standby**]:

👂 *Rescue crews were standing by in case of a breakdown.*

stand by for

👂 *Stand by for our Christmas competition.*

stand by to do something

👂 *Police stood by to arrest any violent fans.*

stand down *phrasal verb*

1 to agree to leave your position or to stop trying to be elected, so that someone else can have a chance [= **step down** *American English*]

stand down as

👂 *He was obliged to stand down as a Parliamentary candidate.*

2 to leave the **WITNESS BOX** in a court of law

3 stand (somebody) down if a soldier stands down or is stood down, he stops working for the day

stand for something *phrasal verb*

1 if a letter or symbol stands for something, it represents a word or idea, especially as a short form:

👂 *What does ATM stand for?*

2 to support a particular set of ideas, values, or principles:

👂 *It's hard to tell what the party stands for these days.*

3 not stand for something *British English* to not allow something to continue to happen or someone to do something:

👂 *She's been lying about me, and I won't stand for it.*

stand in *phrasal verb*

to temporarily do someone else's job or take their place [**→ stand-in**]

stand in for

👂 *Would you mind standing in for me for a while?*

stand out *phrasal verb*

1 to be very easy to see or notice:

👂 *The outlines of rooftops and chimneys stood out against the pale sky.*

👂 *She always stood out in a crowd.*

👂 *I am sure illnesses stand out in all childhood memories.*

2 to be much better than other similar people or things [**→ standout**]

stand out as

👂 *That day still stands out as the greatest day in my life.*

stand out from/among/above

👂 *Three of the cars we tested stood out among the rest.*

3 to rise up from a surface:

👂 *The veins stood out on his throat and temples.*

stand out against something *phrasal verb*

to be strongly opposed to an idea, plan etc:

👂 *We must stand out against bigotry.*

stand over somebody *phrasal verb*

to stand very close behind someone and watch as they work to make sure they do nothing wrong:

🔊 *I can't concentrate with him standing over me like that.*

stand to *phrasal verb*

to order a soldier to move into a position so that they are ready for action, or to move into this position

stand somebody ↔ to

🔊 *The men have been stood to.*

stand up *phrasal verb*

1 to be on your feet or to rise to your feet [↔ stand-up]:

🔊 *I've been standing up all day.*

🔊 *Stand up straight and don't slouch!*

🔊 *Jim stood up stiffly.*

2 [always + adverb/preposition] to stay healthy or in good condition in a difficult environment or after a lot of hard use

stand up to

🔊 *Most of the plants stood up well to the heat.*

3 to be proved to be true, correct, useful etc when tested

stand up to/under

🔊 *The memoirs stand up well to cross-checking with other records.*

🔊 *Without a witness, the charges will never stand up in court (=be successfully proved in a court of law).*

4 **stand somebody up** *informal* to not meet someone who you have arranged to meet:

🔊 *I was supposed to go to a concert with Kyle on Friday, but he stood me up.*

5 **stand up and be counted** to make it very clear what you think about something when this is dangerous or might cause trouble for you

stand up for somebody/something *phrasal verb*

to support or defend a person or idea when they are being attacked:

🔊 *It's time we stood up for our rights.*

🔊 *Silvia is capable of standing up for herself.*

stand up to somebody/something *phrasal verb*

to refuse to accept unfair treatment from a person or organization:

🔊 *He'll respect you more if you stand up to him.*

🔊 *Cliff couldn't stand up to bullying.*

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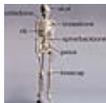
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