

Usage

[Commonly confused words](#) [British and American terms](#) [More English usage help from Oxford](#)

Premium resources

[New Hart's Rules: The Oxford Style Guide](#) [Garner's Modern American Usage](#) [Garner's Dictionary of Legal Usage](#) [New Oxford Dictionary for Writers and Editors](#) [Access premium resources](#)

OxfordWords blog

[Bob's your uncle and other name-based phrases](#) [Cryptology: the art and science of keeping words secure](#) [Colourful language: colours in international idioms](#) [More blog articles](#)

Oxford Dictionaries Community

[Discuss grammar, spelling, and punctuation](#) [Start a conversation about word trends](#) [Join the Oxford Dictionaries Community](#)

Wordlists

[Two-letter words](#) [Weird and wonderful words](#) [More wordlists](#)

Word origins

[What is the origin of the word 'snob'?](#) [What is the origin of the word 'quiz'?](#) [Pirate phrases and their origins](#) [More word origins](#)

Games and quizzes

[Which punctuation mark are you?](#) [Can you figure out what these historical synonyms mean?](#) [How good is your British English?](#) [More games and quizzes](#)

Your language questions

[How many words are there in the English language?](#) [What is the longest English word?](#) [More language questions](#)

- [home](#)
- [US English](#)
- [will](#)

There are 2 main definitions of *will* in English:

- [1](#)
- [2](#)

Share this entry

[email](#) [cite](#) [discuss](#)

will 1

See definition in [Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary](#)

[Top 1000 frequently used words](#)

Syllabification: will

Pronunciation: /wɪl/

/wəl/

modal verb (3rd singular present will; past wouldwɔːd wəd)

1 Expressing the [future tense](#): *you will [regret](#) it when you are older*

[More example sentences](#)

- Soon there will be bitter regret at all the public land being squandered irredeemably.
- Now that she has settled into the British way of life the move to Bradford is one she will never regret.
- Alcohol loosens tongues and will allow you to say things you will truly regret later.
- It is usually a busy holiday weekend on the roads - but this year will be different.
- The committee will also explore different ways of funding light rail to reduce costs.
- Examples of these different types of regimes will be given in the next section.
- Clarke will know that if he performs well he will be in a strong position to bid for the premiership.
- From strong clumps you will get a great display of flowers that last for a long time.
- As the river gets deeper the stronger current will start to take you downstream.
- When he finally gets to see the contract, he will, in all probability, laugh as much as I did.
- Pupils from Tong School will present a piece of drama based on substance misuse.
- Each celebrity will be taking three penalties and a trophy will be presented to the winning side.
- Organisers hope a celebrity guest will be present for the day, which was a huge success last year.
- During the festival he will present a series of new sculptural and printed works.
- If the developers decide to put the road on part of the track bed then the town council will be powerless to stop them.
- The tax will not be for life, and will stop when the fees have been paid off.
- Whatever he says over the next day or two, I expect he will probably take a year off and then decide what to do.
- There is an expectation that there will be a reduction in staff numbers in the UK.
- He will also present his views on what has been achieved so far and what is yet to come.
- Capacity plans will be examined further in the next few months, but are not expected to change.

1.1 Expressing a strong intention or [assertion](#) about the future: *come what may, I will [succeed](#)*

More example sentences

- We are a very strong team and we will turn it around.
- If you make something special and powerful and honest and true, you will succeed.
- It just takes so long to get the help needed but I'm so much stronger now and I know I will get through it.
- In fact, I will continue laying the table outside until everyone refuses to join me.
- You have to be very strong because you will get knockbacks and you'll have to reassess.
- The welfare of the tree is our main concern and we will do what we can to protect it.
- We are people who stand by our friends at times of need and we will do so now.
- We will stop the menace, so our children can once again play safely on the green.
- This is an ideal taster before you rush out and buy the album - which you inevitably will.
- There will therefore be no accidents, no speeding, no road rage and no idiotic driving.
- You have to believe in your own ability and that you will keep your place in the side.
- I will stand in the water and look at my stretching belly and thank Lakshmi for my great good luck.
- As long as smoking exists in a legal capacity I will continue to smoke in designated areas.
- We will win the title easily and at least a cup competition like the European or FA Cup.
- One day we will succeed; it may take a long time, but finally, my generation the first global generation will fully understand the value of nature.
- I will persist until I succeed.
- I will stop being so silly and spontaneous and open towards everyone and everything.
- Some health professionals also advocate cutting down if smokers cannot or will not stop.
- As President, I will not wait for a green light from abroad when our safety is at stake.

2 Expressing [inevitable](#) events: *[accidents](#) will happen*

More example sentences

- It is a necessary fact that animals will die and suffer in the pursuit of human betterment.
- We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way.
- There will always be different trends of opinion in any large, growing socialist party.
- There are other people who will want his job, who will have different ideas of what to do next.
- When a court makes this value judgment the facts will often speak for themselves.

Synonyms

tend to, have a tendency to, are bound to, do, are going to, must

[View synonyms](#)

3 Expressing a [request](#): *will you stop here, please*

More example sentences

- By the way, you will stop me when I get a title graphic up that everyone likes won't you?

3.1 Expressing desire, [consent](#), or [willingness](#): *will you have a [cognac](#)?*

More example sentences

- Neither man will give his consent for the use of the embryos, which is required by law.
- He is keen to cater to all and if requested will happily search out brands he doesn't already stock.
- Bury is not hosting any official events, but will help groups to organise parties.
- On the surface it promotes the idea that the New York Times will cover all newsworthy events.
- The fact that some retailers will accept euros is not an argument for replacing the pound.
- For her vacation, Julie decides to go wherever the first car that stops will take her.

Synonyms

want, [wish](#), [please](#), see/think fit, think best, [like](#), [choose](#), prefer

[View synonyms](#)

4 Expressing facts about ability or capacity: *a rock so light that it will [float](#) on water your [tank](#) will hold about 26 [gallons](#)*

More example sentences

- The way we choose to interpret and perceive stares will influence our ability to cope with them.
- There are shareware programs that will generate tones of frequencies you specify.
- They will also float if you drop one overboard and you can scoop it up with a fish net.
- We must develop a program that will drive the nation to a guaranteed annual income.
- It is, however, well established that the land with a crop on it will hold more water than a bare field.
- Most prefer sun where their colour will be brighter, but will also cope with light shade.
- Testing of hair will provide an indicator of drug use at the time the hair was grown.
- The official line is that the blocks will stop a truck driven by a suicide-bomber.
- My present finances will run to either a pogo stick or a pair of roller skates.
- Remember most of the dance and aerobics videos will require a clear space for you to move in.
- You should stop when the syllabus will lie in thick, soft folds, only just keeping its shape.
- A glance at a field guide will indicate the vast area occupied by breeding curlews.

5 Expressing [habitual](#) behavior: *she will [dance](#) for hours*

More example sentences

- The strongest animals will never allow themselves to be captured and put in cages.
- All I have to do is walk down the street and kids and adults will stop and gawk at me.
- They will do this at a certain time of day and the great thing is to break them of the habit.
- Americans will do anything to avoid a drawn match and in baseball they do anything.
- If you are a few feet away from the bus stop or running towards it, the driver will not stop for you.
- He is a strong character and will make people listen to him, but he always has the argument to back his ideas up.

5.1 ([Pronounced stressing](#) “will”) indicating [annoyance](#) about the [habitual](#) behavior described: *he will keep [intruding](#)*

6 Expressing [probability](#) or [expectation](#) about something in the [present](#): *they will [be miles away](#) by now*

More example sentences

- The anger felt in the Square Mile will probably not be comprehensible to him, but it is real.
- Since this is a matter of probabilities, it will often not be easy to calculate.
- However often the symptoms will be present for some months or years before help is sought.
- On reflection, Moss will probably feel he should have done a little better from close range.
- Some will have strong links with churches and faith groups and community centres.

Usage

On the differences in use between **will** and **shall**, see [shall \(usage\)](#).

Phrases

will do

1

informal Expressing [willingness](#) to [carry out](#) a [request](#) or [suggestion](#): “*Might be best to check.*” “*OK, will do.*”

Origin

Old English *wyllan*, of [Germanic](#) origin; related to [Dutch](#) *willen*, German *wollen*, from an [Indo-European](#) root shared by [Latin](#) *velle* ‘will, wish’.

Words that rhyme with will

bill, Brazil, brill, Camille, chill, cookchill, dill, distil (*US* distill), downhill, drill, Edgehill, Estoril, fill, freewill, frill, fulfil (*US* fulfill), Gill, goodwill, grill, grille, hill, ill, instil, kill, krill, mil, mill, nil, Phil, pill, quadrille, quill, rill, Seville, shill, shrill, sill, skill, spadille, spill, squill, still, stock-still, swill, thill, thrill, till, trill, twill, until, uphill

Definition of will in:

- [British & World English](#) dictionary
- [English synonyms](#)
- [US English synonyms](#)

Share this entry

email cite discuss

- [home](#)
- [US English](#)
- will

There are 2 main definitions of *will* in English:

- [1](#)
- [2](#)

Share this entry

email cite discuss

will 2

See definition in [Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary](#)

Syllabification: will

[Pronunciation](#): /wil/

noun

1 [*usually in singular*] The [faculty](#) by which a person decides on and [initiates](#) action: *she has an iron will a battle of wills between children and their parents an act of will*

More example sentences

- It became this battle of wills between the two sides.
- We have to recognise that we have laid most of the building blocks already and that it is too late to win a battle of wills.
- If he is determined to make this a battle of wills, the outcome could be very messy.
- After the christening, the ship majestically slides to the bottom of the harbor, and so we haven't managed after all to launch her, though that was our intention and our wills were in perfect working order.
- Second, it is clear that we sometimes 'want what we by no means want to want': our bodies react with pleasure and desire independently of our wills.
- Conflict is always a conflict of minds and wills of the parties involved.
- A recent television program on Siamese twins demonstrated how a pair of joined, genetically identical humans had different preferences and quite distinct wills and spirits.
- Rather than conforming their minds, hearts and wills to God's purposes, humans are adept at manipulating the name of God to serve their own agendas.
- They may impose their wills, but that does not bring respect.
- Both had the ability to impose their wills over their opponents.
- Rival deities battle to impose their wills upon the world.
- The critique of Manichee dualism and determinism led him to lay strong emphasis on the will.
- He had fear in him but a strong will that motivated him to continue with his orders.
- He would have burned the 'Sea Lyrics' on the spot, had his will been strong enough to set them aflame.
- Just as breaking the enemy's will is the surest way to success, so having our will broken is the surest path to defeat.
- And rather than having his will broken with the harshness of an over-firm hand, he keeps his spirit.
- Indeed, like any parent of a growing child, he found himself increasingly confronting an independent entity with a will of its own.
- It takes a real blockhead with a will of iron to make it worse.
- Ambitious on it as they are off it, the players are technically-gifted and hard-working, with a will of iron.

- The novel traces her effort to find and then preserve her own identity as a woman, with a will and desires of her own, rather than as a queen, expected to play a role that does not answer the innermost promptings of her heart.

Synonyms

determination, **willpower**, strength of character, **resolution**, **resolve**, **resoluteness**, single-mindedness, **purposefulness**, **drive**, commitment, **dedication**, **doggedness**, **tenacity**, **tenaciousness**, **staying power**

[View synonyms](#)

1.1 (also willpower) Control deliberately **exerted** to do something or to **restrain** one's own **impulses**: *a **stupendous** effort of will*

More example sentences

- I am proud of myself; I have managed to fulfill a feat of endurance and willpower and maintain control over my body.
- It took all my willpower to restrain from running to the harbor and instead follow Mr. Kenton at a swift pace.
- The man looked to be using every ounce of willpower he possessed to restrain himself.
- It was all downhill from there I guess: I have absolutely no willpower, damn me.
- My own willpower in such situations usually fails me.
- How the ambulances manage to get through in an emergency is anybody's guess, sheer willpower and good luck I think.
- It doesn't require willpower, and it doesn't even need you to worry directly about your diet or exercise levels at all.
- Now, there is no longer any need for willpower: you have remade yourself.
- Quitting smoking is an uphill climb which requires patience, willpower and lots of tissues.
- What underlies his willpower is the knowledge that he has trained as hard as possible.
- I even turned to drinking once but overcame it with hard work and willpower.
- It took me all my willpower, which isn't much, to not ring him back.
- Each, through sheer willpower and application, became a supreme footballer.
- But riding is not just another routine challenge she can master through sheer willpower.
- But it is also a story of indomitable willpower, and the courage and dignity of the human spirit.
- With a combination of willpower and unending generosity, fans managed to haul the club back from the brink.
- She soon realized that wasn't going to work, and that simple willpower would have to do.
- While some have the strength and willpower to be able to quit on their own, many others will need a bit more help and support.
- But if your willpower starts to wane, start paying more attention to what you are eating.
- His tears were coming down his cheeks faster now but he had no will left to stop it.

1.2A **deliberate** or fixed desire or intention: *Jane had not wanted them to stay **against their will** [with infinitive]: the will to live*

More example sentences

- As Hume illustrates, we might suppose that there are no Reasons in the area of ethics - just the desires or wills of particular persons, not necessarily shared or respected by anyone else.
- I doubted, as I watched over the little boy's head, that the old man would live, but there were always several people who had strong wills to live.
- Artistic talent is very often present, but the will to express this talent may be slow to appear.
- This is a declaration of military intent, of the will to shed blood and tears for a fellow nation.
- Jacklin is not alone in questioning the will to succeed among some of the young players in Europe.
- He won because he had to win; because for him, the will to win is as strong as the will to live.
- There is a will to succeed that took too long to hone to be put into retirement so soon.
- The will or desire to act can be wholesome at one moment and unwholesome at another moment.
- Even people who care about the country are slowly having their will to change things drained out of them.
- Against this image of authority lay that of the tsar, the very good but very mysterious 'little father' of his peoples, who had his will constantly thwarted by the likes of landlords and officers, those who exercised immediate authority.
- Like many philosophers he held that the highest form of freedom involves willing as one should, namely, having one's will in step with one's right values.
- Everyone who heard Boris was left feeling tremendously buoyant about life in general and bursting with a will to go out and do everything possible to help the Conservative cause.
- It's likely that these TV personalities aren't actually lefty liberals with a will to help the poor and needy.
- Hopefully I'll come back refreshed and with a will to get on with lots of exciting things!
- Anyone with a will to live wouldn't have taken such a great risk.
- She says that her experience in care left her with a will and a means to destroy herself quietly for many years both physically and psychologically.
- These were two egos competing for attention in a town where celebrities are omnipresent, each pulling in different directions, yet both fired with a will to win.

Synonyms

desire, wish, preference, inclination, intention, intent, **volition**

[View synonyms](#)

1.3 The thing that one **desires** or **ordains**: *the **disaster** was **God's** will*

More example sentences

- Instead, they explain that all humans have wills and desires, and it should not be surprising that infants also express theirs.
- They are enacting their own selfish wills, and teaching us to do the same.

Synonyms

wish, desire, decision, choice;

decree, command

[View synonyms](#)

2A legal document containing [instructions](#) as to what should be done with one's money and [property](#) after one's death.

Example sentences

- Up and down the country, thousands of other people have done the same, yet all of us knew at the time we signed such documents that these wills had no proper legal status.
- And those jurisdictions have also eliminated discrimination in the areas of property division, wills, stamp duty and hospital visitation rights.
- In her classes, she pestered professors with questions about how the legal topic in question - wills and trusts, property law - might apply to pets.
- He was accused of deliberately increasing the dosage of opiates used as pain relief in order to end the lives of patients who had left him money in their wills.
- Durable power of attorney documents, like wills and trusts, can be changed or rewritten as needed.
- It is essential that both partners make wills appointing testamentary guardians in the event of their death while the children are still under 18.
- Save in the case of those rash testators who make their own wills, the proper transmission of property from one generation to the next is dependent upon the due discharge by solicitors of their duties.
- It's also important to draw up wills to clarify legal custody in the case of unexpected death.
- The Family Records Centre, in Islington, holds census information from 1841, wills and birth, death and marriage certificates.
- Not long after that, we found out that Mom and Dad had left us all a lot of money in their wills.
- Among other material now available online is Scotland's statutory registers of births, deaths and marriages along with wills and testaments.
- There must be many people even now who have such an agreement with their doctor and I would like to see such informal contracts accepted as legal, in the same way in which I believe codicils to wills are.
- Specifics such as whether the couples were registered partners or had drawn up legal wills shall factor into each decision.
- The manual, launched on 22 February, will help in writing wills and testaments.
- The names revealed can then be researched in newspapers of the time and at the National Archive, where records of wills, births and deaths will reveal further information.
- They make a big thing about their reliance on benefactors, and every ten years or so, they invite their ex-students back for a nice slap-up meal and a bit of a speech to remind us how to leave them money in our wills.
- The couple have been to Christchurch twice before and spent a great deal of time on the last visit researching marriages and death records, wills and shipping records.
- Members of religious orders may inherit only small life pensions and cannot dispose of property through wills.
- Mr Prior has reminded me that he is the nominated executor of two wills of other members of his family.
- There is a widely held view among solicitors that do-it-yourself wills only result in making lawyers richer.

Synonyms

testament, last will and testament, bequest

[View synonyms](#)

verb

[with object] [Back to top](#)

1 chiefly *formal literary* Intend, desire, or [wish](#) (something) to happen: *he was doing what the [saint](#) willed [with clause]: [marijuana](#), [dope](#), [grass](#)—call it what you will*

More example sentences

- Is it the case that a spell will not work if the person casting it consciously desires or wills the outcome?
- From another angle, however, it is possible to argue that his premature death was willed by the state.
- To save the world, in this understanding, God willed the violent death of God's only beloved son.
- He chooses to do so not because he seeks to suffer or because God wills his death, but as the means to life for God's people.
- And lastly, regarding the Constitution, the Conservative government will not make any changes unless the democratic process wills it.
- But can empire be thrust upon a nation, whether it wills it or not?
- How, then, do we deal with the 'outside', with new things, the threat of somebody who wills our destruction?
- May we be justice minded and peace-filled just as God wills it.
- Not for gain or glory, not for riches or immortality, but because my God wills it and that makes it right.
- He attempts to refuse them passage, but Virgil reminds him that in Hell what God wills is done.

Synonyms

decree, **order**, **ordain**, command

[View synonyms](#)

1.1 [with object and infinitive] Make or try to make (someone) do something or (something) happen by the exercise of mental powers: *reluctantly he willed himself to turn and go back she **stared** into the **fog**, willing it to **clear***

More example sentences

- We sat by Charlie's bed for five days, just willing him to wake up.
- The crowd were willing him on but the goal never came.
- With only one weekend left until Christmas, the major retailers are willing us all to indulge in a last-minute splurge of spending.
- Apart from the stern-faced usherettes willing us out of their establishment, we were the only people left in the auditorium.
- The Aussie admits that he left Essex on bad terms with several players, and they were surrounding him yesterday and willing him to fail.
- Everyone was willing her to win a fortune and she did not let us down.
- I stood at the bar and stared at the barman, willing him to come to me next.
- It was even more disappointing yesterday because we could feel the fans getting behind us and willing us to win.
- I know how painful it was for the whole family to see her like this, and in the end it was a case of willing her to go, so that her pain would end.
- I feel that all the people who know and love me are willing me to be better and get well and take control.
- I never imagined my sister would not reappear when I willed her to.
- There was a large throng willing him on to success.
- I just sat and nodded, not really understanding the full significance of this issue, willing her to go on.
- I continued to stare at him, willing him to ask me out, but he never did.
- But even as I willed my weary body into sleep, my mind did not cease to race with thoughts.
- It is not terribly difficult to create in people the feeling that they have willed events that were not actually under their control.
- Edward allowed himself one gulp as he entered the chamber, and then willed his body not to betray his nervousness.
- And don't forget that it is one of the most popular games of all time, so there will be more fans willing the movie not to fail.
- I can't help muttering under my breath, though, willing the hawk on.
- He willed death to come quickly, with every ounce of strength he still possessed.

2 (**will something to**) **Bequeath** something to (someone) by the terms of one's will.

Example sentences

- If I should die before he is freed, the case will be willed to another attorney.
- To Bentham, who willed his own body to the University of London, it was perfectly just to put the bodies of paupers to scientific use as a means of repaying their public debt.
- He willed the farm to Annie before lapsing into delirium and feverishly mumbling his last words in the Maori he knew so well.
- And unlike Graham, who named Protas as her sole heir, Balanchine willed his ballets to a number of heirs, including some of the ballerinas who created the roles in those ballets.
- Since all the peoples of the world are his heirs, and since presumably he willed the land to his heirs, then all the people of the earth own it.
- In Renaissance Venice wives were free to bequeath their dowries to whom they willed, whereas in Florence they were required by law to leave them to their children or husband.

Synonyms

bequeath, leave, **hand down**, pass on, settle on;

Law devise

[View synonyms](#)

2.1 [with clause] Leave specified **instructions** in one's will: *he willed that his body be given to the **hospital***

More example sentences

- When he died, he willed that all he had hidden down here be buried with him.
- She had willed that after her death parts of her body be put on display or sent to those responsible for abusing animals.

Phrases

at will

1

At whatever time or in whatever way one **pleases**: *it can be **molded** and **shaped** at will he was **shoved** around at will*

More example sentences

- Everyone in this film is going slowly insane, doing drugs, and killing at will.
- Few, if any, other counties possess such strong forwards who can switch positions at will.

- That is why they give awards for acting, not for crying or laughing at will.
- Suddenly United found themselves dominating possession and creating opportunities at will.
- If officials can take away peasants' land at will, what other civic rights would be left to them?
- The pack was very powerful and were cutting holes through their Galway opposition at will.
- Anyway, I am beginning to settle into the house, now that I can enter and leave at will.
- My freedom to roam at will conflicts with the farmer's need to make a living and to rear the crops and livestock we all need to exist.
- But those with shopping to do and time budgets need to be able to put their buys in the car boot and return to the shops at will.
- Since it can shut down oil production at will, it is a fight the union is likely to win.

Synonyms

as **one pleases**, as one thinks fit, to suit oneself, at whim

[View synonyms](#)

have a will of one's own

2

Have a [willful](#) character.

Example sentences

- One would almost be tempted to think that we have a will of our own.
- But I don't have it down to an exact science, and sometimes they sort of have a will of their own.
- Annoyed that her thoughts seemed to have a will of their own - something that rarely happened - Sahara flopped backwards into the center of her thick down comforter and closed her eyes in concentration.
- Animals have always been put into a special category for the purpose of civil liability, for, unlike other chattels which may be the instrument in the commission of a tort, animals have a will of their own.
- She had no idea what she would do then, or where she would go, but the thoughts she had of walking away from all this seemed to grow, to have a will of their own.
- Sometimes, whenever we try bringing back the past in our presence, we fail as if our emotions have a will of their own.
- Man was created to be free, to have a will of his own, and to make decisions about right vs. wrong.
- She needed to be strong, and have a will of her own.
- This gentleman, Valmont, he comes and he goes as he pleases: has a will of his own.
- But Curzon had a will of his own, and servant of the crown or no, he always got his way.

have one's will

3

archaic Obtain what one wants.

Example sentences

- At the end of her tale, she delivers a bit of wisdom that has yet to be improved upon: When it comes to love, 'A woman will have her will.'
- Not only have the competitors had to lay down their gloves, as it were, to manipulate their own happy ending, but neither has emerged the clear victor, the comic hero who 'has his will.'

if you will

4

Said when [politely inviting](#) a [listener](#) or reader to do something or when [using](#) an [unusual](#) or [fanciful](#) term: *imagine, if you will, a typical [silversmith's shop](#)*

More example sentences

- Imagine, if you will, the ruins of an ancient abbey set in a secluded valley on the Kent / Sussex border.
- Imagine, if you will, what would happen if the concept were to be transferred to racing.
- So with America firmly in mind, consider the final news item if you will.
- Imagine this scene if you will: a married couple in the throws of passion is interrupted by a man in a white mask.
- Imagine, if you will, that you have the magical power to see two scenes ahead in a film.
- Consider for a moment, if you will, the exquisitely delicate hues of this astoundingly lovely tunicate.
- What is your sense of the depth of the problem, if you will, and what can be done?
- Enjoy with me then, if you will, a fabulous piece of creative writing.
- Allow me, if you will, to give you a random sample of the goods, translated from the original German.
- Just give it a try, if you will, and let me know how it goes in our next session.

where there's a will there's a way

5

proverb [Determination](#) will [overcome](#) any [obstacle](#).

Example sentences

- I know it will be difficult but where there's a will there's a way.
- There would be a problem playing all those games but where there's a will there's a way.
- As they say, where there's a will there's a way, and if anything can be read into Sunday's game, and its scintillating finish, the will is certainly strong in Galway and Kerry.
- The problem for the fixtures board might be finding an alternative but where there's a will there's a way.
- It seems to me that in politics, as in life, where there's a will there's a way.
- Take the man but don't lose hope, where there's a will there's a way.
- But, as with anything else, where there's a will there's a way.
- This isn't easy, but as Jeff shows us, where there's a will there's a way.
- It's complicated, and there's also tax implications, but where there's a will there's a way!
- Rumour has it tickets are tight, but where there's a will there's a way.

with the best will in the world

6

However good one's intentions (used to [imply](#) that success in a particular [undertaking](#) is [unlikely](#) although [desired](#)).

Example sentences

- Against this it must be realised that accommodation is in very short supply and, with the best will in the world, we cannot always comply with every request.
- As it stands, the police are doing a tremendous job, but with the best will in the world, they don't have the legal expertise of lawyers.
- We are working flat out with all interested parties to try to make this work, but with the best will in the world, it will not be ready by September.
- Even with the best will in the world, the shortage of intensive care nurses will not be fixed overnight.
- But, with the best will in the world, we can't be in two places at once.
- I don't think, with the best will in the world, that the staff are going to be able to clean it all up.
- Understandably, they want their children to learn about their own pasts and cultural traditions in a way that, with the best will in the world, cannot be taught in a Scottish school.
- And with the best will in the world, it is doubtful that the number of spaces will be increased so greatly as to compensate for this.
- Even with the best will in the world, however, not all mentoring programmes work according to plan.
- I have older children at home and even with the best will in the world, it is not always easy to find the time.

with a will

7

[Energetically](#) and [resolutely](#).

Example sentences

- On the following day conditions were better and everyone set about striking camp with a will.
- All had their parts to play and they did it with a will.
- Paul stops scanning the banks for signs of wildlife and paddles with a will.
- But they battled with a will and defended sensibly to deny them a clear-cut opportunity.
- Then with a will, he forced himself to his feet and ran off.
- His stomach snarled as he tore into it with a will.
- It's easy work here on the flat, and he sets to with a will.
- He pulled down the overhead screen with a will and set up his visual.
- He found him eventually and saw them fighting, both hating each other with a fiery passion and both with a will.
- The brothers ate and drank with a will, and joked quietly between bites and gulps.

Derivatives**willed**

1

[Pronunciation](#): /wild/

adjective

*[in combination]: I'm [strong-willed](#)***will-lessness**

2

noun

Example sentences

- Is it possible to achieve the state of will-lessness and unconditional confidence in the environment?
- This requires the capacity to rise above the opposing tendencies of willfulness coming from the right side of the Tree and will-lessness from the left.
- When one lives with the view that outside forces are determining their reality, a sense of will-lessness, powerlessness arises.
- It's a display of will-lessness, a posture of obedience to external control.
- The will-lessness guarantees the weak that they are unfree and irresponsible.

willer

3

[Pronunciation:](#)

noun

Example sentences

- Then again, I could be way off, because I think determinists and free willers alike are both nuts.

Origin

Old English *willa* (noun), *willian* (verb), of [Germanic](#) origin; related to [Dutch](#) *wil*, German *Wille* (nouns), also to [will](#)¹ and the adverb [well](#)¹.

Definition of will in:

- [British & World English](#) dictionary
- [English synonyms](#)
- [US English synonyms](#)

Share this entry

email cite discuss

What do you find interesting about this word or phrase?

Comments that don't adhere to our [Community Guidelines](#) may be moderated or removed.



Add a comment...

Comment

Facebook social plugin

Most popular in the world

- Australia
- Canada
- India
- Malaysia
- Pakistan
- Spain