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noun (4verb (used with object) (1)View synonyms for disadvantageabsence or deprivation of advantage or equality.Synonyms: hindrance, inconvenience, drawbackthe state or an instance of being in an unfavorable circumstance or condition.something that puts one in an unfavorable position or condition.His bad temper is a disadvantage.injury to interest, reputation, credit, profit, etc.; loss.Your behavior is a disadvantage to your family's good name.Synonyms: damage, harm, hurt, detrimentdisadvantaged, disadvantaged to subject to disadvantage.I was disadvantaged by illness.an unfavourable circumstance, state of affairs, thing, person, etcinjury, loss, or detrimentan unfavourable condition or situation (esp in the phrase at a disadvantage )"Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012(tr) to put at a disadvantage; handicap"Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Origin of disadvantageFirst recorded in 1350-1400, Middle English disadvantage, from Anglo-French: Old French desavantage; equivalent to dis- 1 + advantageExamples are provided to illustrate real-world usage of words in context. Any opinions expressed do not reflect the views of Dictionary.com."You have to have people who want an electric truck and don't mind the disadvantages that they include."A report published last month by the Women and Equalities committee found that female entrepreneurs face significant disadvantages in accessing finances, investment networks and support systems.The aim was simple but ambitious: to support disadvantaged young people and provide opportunities that might keep them safe and inspired.The income raised by the levy will be used to fund maintenance grants for disadvantaged students studying so-called priority courses such as university degrees and technical qualifications.TV station owners are limited to reaching 39% of the country, which companies say puts them at a disadvantage in competing against tech giants that have no such restriction in their media endeavors.Read more on Los Angeles TimesdiscustomdisadvantagedBrowse#aabbcdddeeffghijikllmmnnoppqrrssttuuvvwxxyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC From Longman Dictionary of Contemporary Englishdisadvantagedis·ad·van·ta·ge /ˌdɪsədˈvɑːntɪdʒ s -væn-/ ●●● W2 noun [countable, uncountable]   DISADVANTAGESomething that causes problems, or that makes someone or something less likely to be successful or effective OPP advantagedisadvantage of The disadvantage of the material is that it fades in strong sunlight.disadvantage to There are some big disadvantages to marriage - you do lose a lot of your freedom. Criminal behaviour can be linked to economic disadvantage.COLLOCATIONSatisfies the main disadvantageThe main disadvantage of iron as a material is its weight a big/great/major disadvantageThis method has one major disadvantage: its cost.a serious/severe disadvantagePublic transport is very bad here, which is a serious disadvantage a slight/minor disadvantageChildren who are young in their school year sometimes have a slight disadvantage a further/additional/added disadvantageI'll's a very small garden and it has the further disadvantage of facing north.social/economic/educational disadvantage/unemployment often leads to social disadvantage.verbhave a disadvantageCheap air travel has considerable environmental disadvantages.suffer (from) a disadvantage formalWorking-class boys suffer disadvantages in the educational system overcome a disadvantage (=succeeded in spite of a disadvantage)She was able to overcome the disadvantages of race and poverty.phrassesomebody is at a disadvantage (=someone has a disadvantage)The company was at a disadvantage compared with its competitors.put/place somebody at a disadvantage (=make someone less likely to be successful than others)Not speaking English might put you at a disadvantage.bework to the disadvantage of somebody (=make someone unlikely to be successful)This system works to the disadvantage of women.advantages and disadvantages (=the good and bad features of something)Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of working from home.the advantages outweigh the disadvantages(The advantages of building the new road would outweigh the disadvantages. THESAURUSdisadvantage noun [countable] a bad feature that something has, which makes it less good or less useful than other thingsWhat do you think are the disadvantages of nuclear energy?This car uses a lot of fuel, which is a major disadvantage.drawback noun [countable] a bad feature that something has, although it has advantages that are usually more importantOne of the main drawbacks is the price, bad point noun [countable] a bad feature that something hasAll of these designs have both their good points and bad points the downside noun [singular] the disadvantage of a situation that in most other ways seems good or enjoyableIt's a great job. The only downside is that I don't get much free time. Examples from the Corpusdisadvantage A review of on-site fire protection equipment available for fighting fires in high-bay warehouses stating its advantages and disadvantages • Like many other black families, his family had to struggle to overcome social and economic disadvantages • The main disadvantages, apart from cost, is their considerable weight and the fact that they can chip. • The main disadvantage of being a nurse is working irregular hours. • Your main disadvantage is your lack of job experience. • The proposal has some major disadvantages. • Our goal is to try to provide financial help people in our community with a lot of disadvantages. • The interdital zones circumvent the two outstanding disadvantages of marine living. • While the yield to maturity is the single most commonly used measure of yield, it nevertheless has several disadvantages. • The Association is on record for many years high-lighting the disadvantages of this type of pay scheme. • She says the advantages for children going on line far outweigh the disadvantages, particularly as on line applies to schoolwork. • Soviet space science suffers the disadvantage of poor technology, particularly in electronics, which is years behind that of the West. • When this is done, there is a tendency for other artists to be compared with the leader to their disadvantage. disadvantage to • One disadvantage to this plan is that you can't choose your own doctor.disadvantagedisadvantage verb [transitive] to make someone less likely to be successful or to put them in a worse situation than others – See Verb tableExamples from the Corpusdisadvantage • Asked if he thought an over-emphasis on sport could disadvantage black kids in academic subjects, he answered: No. • She did best in the interview, the part of the application process which was said to disadvantage comprehensive school students. • Geographical accident must not be allowed to disadvantage individuals in their ability to gain access to good local care. • In particular, there are complex rules which disadvantage married women. • And the selective system does not seem to disadvantage those at the bottom of the class. • There are two forms of inequality related to occupational pensions which also serve to disadvantage very elderly women, especially widows. • The use of discriminatory language can and does disadvantage women and members of ethnic minority groups. • However, contemporary interpretations of customary law largely disadvantage women. Pictures of the day What are these? Click on the pictures to check. Physics Compounds Defence Photography See all topics Word of the day inconvenient causing problems, often in a way that is annoying (redirected from disadvantages)Also found in: Thesaurus, Idioms. (dɪsədˈvɑːntɪʃ)n.1. An unfavorable condition or position: students who are at a disadvantage because they don't own computers. 2. Something that places one in an unfavorable condition or position: A disadvantage to living there is that you'd have no access to public transportation.3. Damage or loss, especially to reputation or finances; detriment: High gasoline prices have worked to the company's disadvantage.tr.v. dis·ad·van·ta·ged, dis·ad·van·tag·ing, dis·ad·van·tag·es To put at a disadvantage; hinder or harm.Middle English dis·advantage, from Old French des·advantage, des- dis- + advantage, advantage; see advantage.J.Synonyms: disadvantage, detriment, drawback, handicap These nouns denote a condition, circumstance, or characteristic unfavorable to success: Poor health is a disadvantage to athletes. The lack of a parking lot has been a detriment to the museum. Every job has its drawbacks. Illiteracy is a serious handicap in life.American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. 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All rights reserved. (See also PREDICAMENT, VULNERABILITY).behind the eighth ball At a disadvantage; in a jam or difficult situation. Originally American, this expression is said to have come from the game of Kelly pool. In one variation of this game, all the balls except the black eighth ball must be pocketed in a certain order. If, in the course of play, another ball strikes the eighthball, the player is penalized. Thus, a player finding the eighthball between the cueball and the one he intends to pocket is indeed in a disadvantageous position. John O'Hara used the phrase in Appointment in Samarra (1934): You get signing checks for prospects down at the country club, and you wind up behind the eighthball get the short end of the stick See VICTIMIZATION.have two strikes against one To be at a disadvantage, and thus have less chance of successfully reaching one's goal or following through with one's plans. This application process which was said to disadvantage comprehensive school students. The mission of the Democratic party is to fight for the under-dog. (Daily Chronicle, June, 1992)Pictureque Expressions: A Thematic Dictionary, 1st Edition. © 1980 The Gale Group, Inc. 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The familiar phrase, while retaining its dog-vie connotation, is often used today to describe the victim of social conventions, government bureaucracy, and other virtually omnipotent institutions.The mission of the Democratic party is to fight for the under-dog. (Daily Chronicle, June, 1992)Pictureque Expressions: A Thematic Dictionary, 1st Edition. © 1980 The Gale Group, Inc. 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