

devil

Meaning of devil in English

devil

noun

US /'dev.əl/ UK /'dev.əl/

devil noun (EVIL BEING)

B2 [C]

an evil being, often represented in human form but with a tail and horns

▶ the devil [S] (often the Devil)

a powerful evil force and the enemy of God in Christianity and Judaism

– Examples

- *He's a sly old devil - I wouldn't trust him with my money.*
- *André has a new job, the lucky devil.*
- *Gothic churches are full of devils and grotesque figures.*
- *One survivor described his torturers as devils incarnate.*
- *The devil was painted with horns and cloven hoofs.*

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devil noun (PERSON)

C2 [C] informal

someone, especially a child, who behaves badly:

- *Those little/young devils broke my window.*

[C] informal humorous

a person who enjoys doing things people might disapprove of:

- *"I'm going to wear a short black skirt and thigh-length boots." "Ooh, you devil!"*
- *Have another slice of cake - go on, be a devil!*

[C] informal

used with an adjective to describe someone and express your opinion about something that has happened to them:

- *I hear you got a new car, you lucky devil!*
- *He's been sick for weeks, poor devil.*

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Idioms

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| be between the devil and the deep blue sea | the devil finds work for idle hands |
| the devil to pay | the devil's own |
| (to) give the devil his due | go to the devil |
| speak/talk of the devil | the/a devil of a sth |
| what/where/how/why the devil | |

(Definition of devil from the *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus* © Cambridge University Press)

devil | INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH

devil

noun [C]

US /'dev-əl/

an evil being, often represented in human form but with a tail and horns

▶ the Devil

The Devil, in Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, is the most powerful evil spirit.

The devil can be used to give emphasis to a question:

- *What the devil are you doing?*

(Definition of devil from the *Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary* © Cambridge University Press)

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[魔鬼, 魔鬼, 惡魔, 妖魔, 人...](#) [See more](#)
- in Chinese (Simplified)
[魔鬼, 魔鬼, 惡魔, 妖魔, 人...](#) [See more](#)
- in Spanish
[demonio, demonio \[masculine\]...](#) [See more](#)
- in Portuguese
[demônio...](#) [See more](#)
- in more languages

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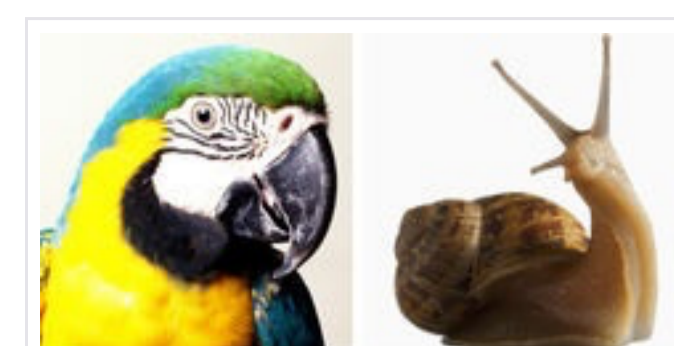
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+ Idioms

WORD OF THE DAY
newfangled

recently made for the first time, but not always an improvement on what existed before

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