Bad

Exceptional Expressions For Everyday Events

Bad is an adjective that can be applied to many unfortunate situations. The word **bad** can be used to refer to quality, behavior, or state of being. As an evaluative word, **bad**, together with its many synonyms and alternative expressions, could be used very productively in a word line exercise. Food that goes bad is unhealthy or unusable. A child's bad behavior may be called inappropriate. A student might consider his bad test score as dreadful or atrocious. Bad news could be disheartening or even devastating.

Follow-Ups

- How is being rude different from being naughty?

- What are some situations that might be awful, but not ruinous?

- How is a terrible situation different from a horrific situation?

- What does the phrase "the deal went sour" mean?

The Spanish Connection

Linguists are not certain of the origin of **bad**. Most likely, **bad** was an old English word. The Spanish word for **bad** is *malo* or *mal*. Although the Spanish word is not a cognate, the prefix **mal-** (which came from French or Latin) is a helpful tool for students. The word **malice** itself is a noun meaning the desire to do something bad or evil. **Mal-** as a prefix often turns a word into something bad or faulty. **To malfunction** is to not function properly. **Malodorous** is to smell bad.

Word Changes

- Although some people inappropriately add the suffixes *-er* and *-est* to **bad**, the adverb **badly** contains the only inflected suffix for **bad**.

- A very common misuse of the adverb **badly** is "He feels badly" instead of "He feels bad." To say "He feels badly" means that there is something wrong with the person's sense of touch.

- In contemporary slang, **bad** can be used almost as its opposite. Calling a pair of shoes bad may mean that the shoes are cool or fashionable. Most often this term is said with enthusiasm or exclamation.

- Care should be taken to not over extend the application of the prefix **mal-**. Words such as **malamute**, **male**, or **mallard** do not share this prefix.

- The origin of the idiom "between a rock and a hard place" is unknown, but its meaning is clear: To be caught between a rock and a hard place is to be stuck in a bad situation where both available options are difficult or undesirable.

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Tuesday 17

Bad as a state of being
- evil
- wicked
- corrupt
- immoral
- depraved
- debauched
- ruthless
- merciless
- cruel
- shameless
- regretful
- sorry
- penitent
- ashamed
- contrite
- guilty
- repentant
- sad
- unhappy
- troubled

Bad as a descriptor of a situation
- serious
- severe
- grave
- critical
- life-threatening
- acute
- disheartening

Bad as in a poor quality
- poor
- inferior
- deficient
- flawed
- faulty
- defective
- substandard
- imperfect
- shoddy
- abysmal
- rotten
- decayed/ing
- decomposing
- putrid
- sour
- rancid

Bad as a descriptor of things
- lousy
- awful
- terrible
- dreadful
- appalling
- shocking
- ghastly
- horrific
- dire
- unpleasant
- difficult
- distressing
- harsh
- unhealthy
- damaging
- ruinous
- dangerous
- harmful
- atrocious

Bad as a behavior
- naughty
- disobedient
- badly
- behaved
- troublesome
- wayward
- mischievous
- unmanageable
- unruly
- willful
- rude

Bad

IDIOMS
- Bad seed/egg
- Bad blood
- Bad news travels fast
- Give _____ a bad name
- Between a rock and a hard place
- Get up on the wrong side of the bed
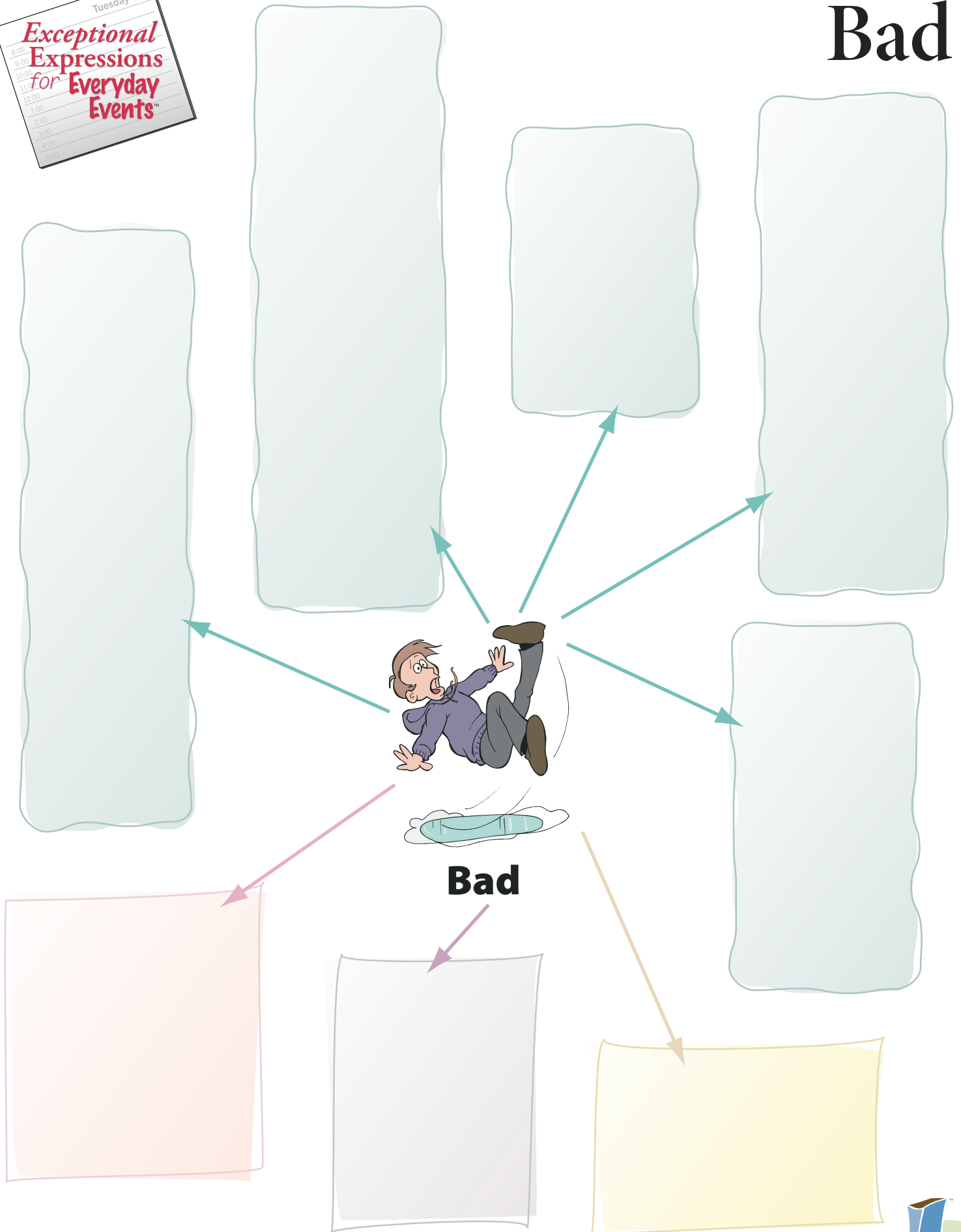- To bad-mouth

COMMON PHRASES
- Bad off
- Half bad
- To go bad
- Bad guy
- From bad to worse
- Got it bad
- Bad mood
- My bad

THE SPANISH CONNECTION
- grave / grave
- horrible / horrible
- inferior / inferior
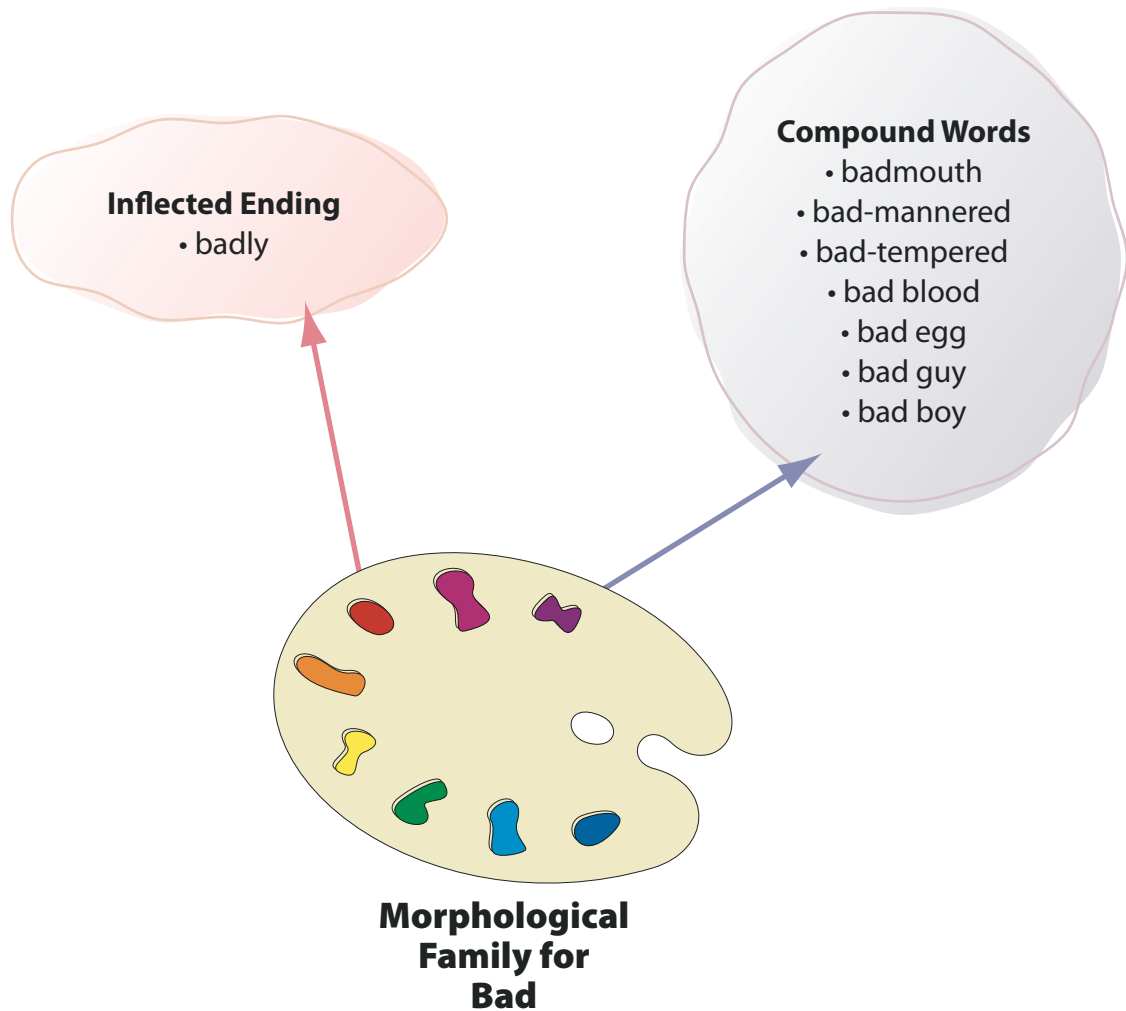- defective / defectuoso
- purtid / pútrido

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Bad

Inflected Ending
• badly

Compound Words
• badmouth
• bad-mannered
• bad-tempered
• bad blood
• bad egg
• bad guy
• bad boy

**Morphological
Family for
Bad**

Bad

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