

ONE WORD. COUNTLESS DIRECTIONS.

RUN

At its core, run means **to move fast** on foot.

From there, it **runs** into many other meanings.

MEANING, FORMS & USES

WORD FORMS



VERB (INTRANSITIVE)

to run

to move fast on foot.
He *runs* five kilometers every day.



VERB (TRANSITIVE)

to run something

to operate or manage something.
They *run* the company very efficiently.



NOUN (COUNTABLE)

a run

a short journey or race.
I went for a 5K *run* in the park.



ADJECTIVES

• a **running joke** – a joke that is often repeated because it is funny.



COMMON COLLOCATIONS

- run a business
- run a household
- run a meeting
- run a show
- run a campaign
- run fast
- run a race
- run errands
- run late
- run out of time
- run water
- run a fever
- run cold
- run deep
- run smooth
- in the long run
- on the run
- run for cover
- no run around
- give someone a run for their money

AT A GLANCE: MAIN MEANINGS

1

MOVE FAST

to run = to go quickly on foot.
She *runs* every morning.



2

OPERATE / FUNCTION

to run a machine, a program, a system.
The server *runs* 24/7.



3

MANAGE / ORGANIZE

to run a business, an event, a home.
She *runs* a small coffee shop.



4

FLOW / MOVE CONTINUOUSLY

to run (of liquids, time, tears, water...).
The river *runs* through the valley.



5

A SERIES / A STREAK

a *run* of something (events, numbers, good luck...).
He's on a winning *run*.



PHRASAL VERBS: RUN + ...



run into

meet or find someone by chance.
I *ran into* an old friend.



run across

find or discover by chance.
I *ran across* a useful book.



run out of

have no more of something.
We *ran out of* milk.



run up

increase (costs, bills, numbers...).
The bill *ran up* quickly.



run down

criticize; wear out or lose power.
Don't *run* others down.
The battery *ran* down.



run over

hit with a vehicle; explain quickly.
He nearly *ran over* the cat.
Can you *run over* the plan again?



run through

go over or review something.
Let's *run through* the agenda.

RUN IN CONTEXT



MOVE FAST

He *runs* every morning before work.



OPERATE

This software *runs* on Windows.



MANAGE

Her family has *run* this shop since 1998.



FLOW

Cold water *runs* from the spring.



A RUN

He is on a five-race winning *run*.

EXAMPLES IN CONTEXT

“We need someone who can *run* the project.”

(VERB – TRANSITIVE)

“The meeting will *run* for about an hour.”

(VERB – FLOW / TIME)

“A red light? Just *run* it.”

(VERB – OPERATION)

“That joke about the cat never gets old – it's a *running* joke!”

(ADJECTIVE)

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IDIOMS & EXPRESSIONS



in the long run
over a long period of time.
Exercise is worthwhile in the *long run*.



on the run
fleeing or escaping.
The thief is still *on the run*.



give someone a run for their money
compete very well against someone.
The new team gave the favorites a *run* for their money.



run wild
act in an uncontrolled way.
Let your imagination *run wild*!



no run around
no unnecessary delay or excuses.
They provided quick service with *no run around*.



DID YOU KNOW?

Run is one of the most frequent verbs in English. It appears in thousands of everyday phrases, idioms and collocations!