

Bad in Danish? (-; - dårlig, ringe, slem, alvorlig, ubehagelig, fræk, uartig.

Bad has a very broad range of meanings that can't be covered by a single word in Danish.

If you compare:

- 1) *The car had bad tires. (Bilen havde dårlige dæk)*
- 2) *I had a bad disease. (Jeg havde en alvorlig/slem sygdom)*
- 3) *Liza was a bad girl (Liza var en uartig/fræk pige)*
- 4) *It was a bad surprise. (Det var en ubehagelig overraskelse.)*

you'll see the problem: In 1) *bad* describes the poor state or function of the object (*bad = not up to standard*). In 2) *bad* describes the degree to which a phenomenon is negative. (*bad = severe*). In 3) *bad* is a moral judgement. (*bad = disobedient or naughty or evil*) And in 4) *bad* describes the situation you've ended up in. (*bad = unpleasant*).

The Danish word *dårlig* usually describes function. *En dårlig hovedpine* would be a headache that was not up to standard – a poor headache. Also *en dårlig fyr* would describe function - it might be a guy in need of a shot of viagra. Only in a few fixed expressions: *et dårligt menneske* (a bad/evil person) and *dårligt selskab* (bad company) *dårlig* will be a moral judgement.

Not up to standard (quality/function/performance/abundance) = Dårlig, ringe: *A bad harvest = En dårlig/ringe høst. A bad colleague = En dårlig kollega. A bad result = Et dårligt/ringe resultat. A bad mother = En dårlig mor. The fish has gone bad. = Fisken er dårlig. I have a bad leg = Jeg har et dårligt ben.*

Severe = Alvorlig, slem, stærk: *A bad cold = En slem forkølelse. A bad accident = En alvorlig ulykke.. A bad headache = En slem/stærk hovedpine.*

Unpleasant = Ubehagelig: *A bad situation.: En ubehagelig situation.*

Disobedient = Uartig: *A bad boy = En uartig dreng (kun om børn),*

Naughty (sexy) = Fræk: *A bad girl= En fræk pige.*

Evil = Ond: *The good guys defeated the bad guys. = De gode vandt over de onde.*

Wrong = Forkert, gal: *A bad decision= En forkert/gal beslutning.*