

What Does "Tuff" Mean?

Tuff Meaning

- **Tuff** refers to someone or something that is **strong**, **cool**, **edgy**, or anything that has a rough appearance. It's usage is in a positive tone and calling someone "tuff" as opposed to "tough" is taken as a compliment. Likewise, referring to an object as tuff is also seen as a compliment to the object.



Origin of Tuff

- **Tuff** originated from the book *Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. In the book the "greaser" gang, similar to stereotypical 1950s cool-guys, would commonly use tuff as a positive remark. If the word had actual origins from real-world slang or was made up for the book is unknown, as some have argued tuff was in use since the 1940s while others claim the word was invented for the book. Regardless of origin, tuff would go on to be used frequently including online usage. This slang originated from a novel.

Conversation Examples

Text Between Friends:

- Friend 1: My dad just got a Mustang!
- Friend 2: Nice! That's one **tuff** car.
- Friend 1: I know. He's been reeving the engine all day.
- Friend 2: I don't think they're that tough.
- Friend 1: I know, but I don't want to ruin his fun.



Online Chat:

- User 1: Real talk now, who do you think is **tuff**? Luke Skywalker or Han Solo?
- User 2: Han for sure. He shot first.
- User 3: Definitely Han. Luke had it much easier than Han.
- User 4: I dunno. Luke is pretty tuff. Ever read the comics? Living on that farm wasn't easy.
- User 5: Equally **tuff** in their own way.