

ill-

1. Done badly

Productive use: ill- combines with past participle to form adjectives. Words formed in this way describe an action as having been done badly or inadequately. For example, if something is 'ill-timed', it happens or is done at the wrong time, so that happens or is done at the wrong time, so that it is inappropriate or rude; if you are 'ill-informed' the information you have been given is wrong or inadequate.

I find your jokes singularly ill-timed.
There was some ill-concealed laughter behind me.
Parents have always maintained that the headmaster was ill-advised.
The schools are understaffed, ill-equipped, and in poor repair.

- Here are some examples of words with this meaning:

<i>ill-adapted</i>	<i>ill-concealed</i>	<i>ill-educated</i>	<i>ill-paid</i>
<i>ill-advised</i>	<i>ill-conceived</i>	<i>ill-equipped</i>	<i>ill-prepared</i>
<i>ill-assorted</i>	<i>ill-considered</i>	<i>ill-founded</i>	<i>ill-suited</i>
<i>ill-chosen</i>	<i>ill-designed</i>	<i>ill-informed</i>	<i>ill-timed</i>

Note that ill- occasionally combines in this way with present participle.

A tall man with ill-fitting glasses that kept slipping to the end of his nose.

2. Unpleasantness

ill- combines with nouns and adjectives to form new nouns and adjectives. Words formed in this way refer to or describe something that is unpleasant or bad. For example, if someone is 'ill-tempered', they have bad temper; if you have 'ill-fortune', you are unlucky.

Victoria station was full of anxious, ill-tempered travelers.
Alice recounted the story of her ill-fated boating expedition.
He bore ill-health with considerable fortitude.

- Here are some examples of words with this meaning:

<i>ill-bred</i>	<i>ill-fortune</i>	<i>ill-mannered</i>	<i>ill-tempered</i>
<i>ill-disposed</i>	<i>ill-health</i>	<i>ill-natured</i>	<i>ill-treatment</i>
<i>ill-fated</i>	<i>ill-humour</i>	<i>ill-omened</i>	<i>ill-will</i>
<i>ill-feeling</i>	<i>ill-luck</i>	<i>ill-starred</i>	<i>ill-wisher</i>

Note that ill- occasionally combines in this way with verbs.