



JUST IN CASE



JUST IN CASE - meaning

The adverb JUST has 14 definitions according to Oxford Learner's Dictionaries! Some you can imagine easily and a few are not so common. Here is the meaning of JUST IN CASE.

(JUST) IN CASE – because of the possibility of something happening

www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com - just

The preposition IN can mean - within the shape of something; surrounded by something

oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com - in

The noun CASE means - a particular situation or a situation of a particular type

www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com - case

Just in case means that “IF something happens” you want to be prepared. So IF you find yourself inside (IN) a particular situation (CASE) you will be ready.

Please look at the following example:

- There are a few dark clouds in the sky, I have to make a quick trip to the store so I think I'll take my umbrella with me **just in case**.

Let's break down the example:

“There are a few dark clouds in the sky.” = there is a possibility of rain today.

“...I think I'll take my umbrella with me...” = I will be prepared. I will do this because of the possibility of rain.

“....JUST IN CASE.” = IF something happens. (In this example – IF it rains.)

Just In Case – Meaning with context

We can imagine that the weather forecast doesn't expect rain today, but there are a few dark clouds in the sky. It makes us think that there is a small chance it will rain.

The meaning of our example sentence is – The chances are small that it will rain today, but if it does rain it will be no problem because I will have an umbrella.

Just In Case - more examples

- I am having a party tonight. I expect 10 people to come but I bought some extra wine **just in case** more people arrive.

I think I will have 10 people at my party... but IF more people come I will have enough wine because I bought extra.

- We have an important meeting at 7:00 am. I don't want to be late so I will leave very early, **just in case**.

We can end the sentence with **just in case** because it's easy to imagine why it is better to leave early if you don't want to be late. Traffic jams, train delays, bad weather, etc. can cause problems. If we leave early we have extra time. We are prepared, and we won't be late.

- I'll leave a note for Tracy **just in case** she arrives before we get back.

Just in case – In a conversation

A: "Your apartment is always so clean!"

B: "Thanks, I like to be ready for guests at all times. **Just in case** some friends drop by unexpectedly."

- A: My plane was late and I missed my connecting flight. I had to stay overnight at an airport hotel. What a hassle!
B: That's why I always buy travel insurance, **just in case** something like this happened.

In Case by itself

We can use IN CASE with JUST to mean - if it is true that
Please look at the following examples.

- We have more pizza **in case** you're still hungry.
(If it is true that you are still hungry.)
 - There are no anchovies on the pizza **in case** you were worried.
(If it's true that you were worried.)
 - You should take your umbrella now **in case** it's raining when you come home tonight.
(If it's true that it rains tonight)
 - Lisa always keeps breath mints in her purse **in case** she doesn't have time to brush her teeth after lunch.
(If it's true that Lisa doesn't have time to brush her teeth she will use the breath mints to freshen her breath.)

The verb FRESHEN comes from adding the Suffix -EN to the adjective FRESH. Easily increase your English vocabulary with [The Suffix EN Your Best Guide \(free PDF download\)](#)

In That Case

IN THAT CASE means - if that situation happens or has happened

This expression is used after we receive new information that affects our current plans. It's often used at the beginning of a sentence.

Please look at the following examples.

- A: Kevin just called, he has to work late tonight and can't meet us.
B: **In that case**, let's meet on Saturday instead. It's better if everyone is here.
- If that happens (that = Kevin can't come) then meeting on Saturday is a better idea.
- A: Staff from the head office will be here on Wednesday.
B: **In that case**, we need to clean up the office. Everyone make sure your desks are neat and tidy.
- It's good if our office is clean when that happens (that = when staff from head comes to our office.)
- A: The boss went through everyone's reports and he was happy with your work.
B: **In that case** let's go home early tonight.
- The boss was happy with our work (that happened) so we should leave work early today.

IN CASE OF (something)

- Everyone should know how to perform CPR **in case of** an emergency.

We often see this expression on emergency signs.

- Break glass in case of fire.
- In case of emergency call 911.

Just in case - In the NEWS

'Squid Game' Creator Planted S2 Clues 'Just in Case' There Was Another Season

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Working in retirement: Why you need a backup plan just in case

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