





SINCE 1828

- [GAMES](#)
- [BROWSE THESAURUS](#)
- [WORD OF THE DAY](#)
- [WORDS AT PLAY](#)

- [LOG IN](#)
- [REGISTER](#)
- 
- [settings](#) [log out](#)
-  [SAVED WORDS](#)




[dictionary](#) [thesaurus](#) [view recents](#)

[Login](#) or [Register](#)

Hello,

- [GAMES](#)
- [BROWSE THESAURUS](#)
- [WORD OF THE DAY](#)
- [WORDS AT PLAY](#)
- [SETTINGS](#)
- [LOG OUT](#)

-  [SAVED WORDS](#) [view recents](#)


party

[noun](#)

 [Save Word](#)

To save this word, you'll need to log in.

[Log In](#)

par·ty | \ 'pär-tē  \
plural parties

Definition of *party*

(Entry 1 of 2)

- 1 : a person or group taking one side of a question, dispute, or contest The *parties* in the lawsuit reached an agreement.
- 2 : a group of persons organized for the purpose of directing the policies of a government political *parties* with opposing agendas
- 3 : a person or group [participating](#) in an action or affair a mountain-climbing party a party to the transaction
- 4 : a [particular](#) individual : [person](#) an old party approaching 80
- 5 : a detail of soldiers The infantry repulsed a landing party from the ship.
- 6 : a social gathering a dinner party a birthday party also : the entertainment provided for it

party

[verb](#)

partied; partying

Definition of *party* (Entry 2 of 2)

[intransitive verb](#)

: to attend or give [parties](#) broadly : [revel sense 1](#)

 [Other Words from party](#)  [Synonyms](#)  [More Example Sentences](#)  [Learn More about party](#)


Keep scrolling for more

Other Words from *party*

Noun

party adjective

Verb


partyer or less commonly partier \ 'pär-tē-ər  \ noun

Synonyms for *party*

Synonyms: Noun

- [affair](#),
- [bash](#),
- [binge](#),
- [blast](#),
- [blowout](#),

- [do](#),
- [event](#),
- [fete](#)
- (or [fête](#)),
- [function](#),
- [get-together](#),
- [powwow](#)
- [informal, now offensive],
- [reception](#),
- [shindig](#)

[Visit the Thesaurus for More](#) 

Examples of *party* in a Sentence

Noun We are having a *party*. a high school dance *party*

See More  

Recent Examples on the Web: Noun Israeli Channel 12's projection shows Likud taking 33 seats and Blue and White with 34, while Channel 13 forecasts 31 seats for Netanyahu's *party* and 33 seats for his main challenger. — [Andrew Carey, CNN, "Benjamin Netanyahu's re-election plans in limbo as Israeli exit polls show tight contest," 17 Sep. 2019](#) Police advised all *parties* to go to bed and advised the father on the formal eviction process. — [oregonlive, "Husband rocked too hard at Iron Maiden concert: Forest Grove Police log," 17 Sep. 2019](#)

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'party.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#).

See More  

First Known Use of *party*

Noun

14th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Verb

1919, in the meaning defined [above](#)

History and Etymology for *party*

Noun and Verb

Middle English *partie* part, party, from Anglo-French, from *partir* to divide — more at [part](#)

Keep scrolling for more

Learn More about *party*

Share *party*



[Post the Definition of party to Facebook](#)



[Share the Definition of party on Twitter](#)

Resources for *party*



[Time Traveler! Explore the year a word first appeared](#)

From the Editors at Merriam-Webster

[Do You 'Party Hearty' or 'Party Hardy'...](#)

[Do You 'Party Hearty' or 'Party Hardy' \(or Both\)?](#)

[The key to partying is being kind and resilient.](#)

[11 Words For Festive Gatherings](#)

[11 Words For Festive Gatherings](#)

[From beanfeasts to wingdings](#)

Dictionary Entries near *party*

[part ways](#)

[part with](#)

[part writing](#)

[party.](#)

[party animal](#)

[party boss](#)

[party-column ballot](#)

Phrases Related to *party*

[bridal party.](#)

[dinner party.](#)

[drinks party.](#)

[frat party.](#)

[garden party.](#)

[guilty party](#)

[lawn party](#)

Statistics for *party*

Last Updated

29 Oct 2019

Look-up Popularity

Top 30% of words

Time Traveler for *party*

The first known use of *party* was in the 14th century

[See more words from the same century.](#)

Keep scrolling for more

More Definitions for *party*

party

[noun](#)



English Language Learners Definition of *party*

(Entry 1 of 2)

: a social event in which entertainment, food, and drinks are provided

: an organization of people who have similar political beliefs and ideas and who work to have their members elected to positions in the government

law : a person who is involved in a legal case or contract

party

[verb](#)

English Language Learners Definition of *party* (Entry 2 of 2)

informal : to have a party or be involved in a party : to spend enjoyable time eating, drinking, dancing, etc., with a group of people

[See the full definition for *party* in the English Language Learners Dictionary.](#)

party

[noun](#)

par·ty | \ 'pär-tē

plural parties

Kids Definition of *party*

- 1 : a social gathering or the entertainment provided for it
 2 : a person or group concerned in some action He's a *party* to the lawsuit. A search *party* was formed.
 3 : a group of people who take one side of a question or share a set of beliefs a political *party*

party

[noun](#)

par·ty

plural parties

Legal Definition of *party*

1a : one (as a person, group, or entity) constituting alone or with others one of the sides of a proceeding, transaction, or agreement the *parties* to a contract a person who signed the instrument as a party to the instrument
 — *Uniform Commercial Code*

— **accommodated party**

: a party to an instrument for whose benefit an accommodation party signs and incurs liability on the instrument : a party for whose benefit an accommodation is made

— **accommodation party**

: a party who signs and thereby incurs liability on an instrument that is issued for value and given for the benefit of an accommodated party

— **secured party**

: a party holding a security interest in another's property

— **third party**

: a person other than the principals insurance against injury to a *third party*

b : one (as an individual, firm, or corporation) that constitutes the plaintiff or defendant in an action also : one so involved in the prosecution or defense of a judicial or quasi-judicial proceeding as to be bound or substantially affected by the decision or judgment therein

— **adverse party**

: a party to an action who is on the opposing side specifically : a party to a finally decided action whose interests would be served by having the judgment upheld on appeal and who is entitled to notice of an appeal

— **aggrieved party**

: a party with a legally recognized interest that is injuriously affected especially by an act of a judicial or quasi-judicial body and that confers standing to appeal

— called also aggrieved person, party aggrieved

— **indispensable party**

: a party whose rights are so connected with the claims being litigated in an action that no judgment can be rendered without affecting or impairing those rights, no complete disposition of the action can be made without the party's joinder, and whose nonjoinder will result in the dismissal of an action — compare necessary party in this entry

Note: Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 19 provides the courts with discretion in determining whether the absence of a party requires dismissal of an action, replacing an older and more rigid basis for determination. The rule states that “the court must determine whether, in equity and good conscience, the action should proceed among the existing parties or should be dismissed.”

— **innocent party**

: a party having no fault in or responsibility for the situation for which judicial relief is sought : a party who comes into court with clean hands

— **necessary party**

: a party whose interests are so connected with an action that he or she should be joined in order to fully determine the controversy but whose nonjoinder because of a valid excuse will not result in dismissal — compare indispensable party in this entry

— **nominal party**

: a party who has no actual stake in the outcome of litigation and whose inclusion as a party is solely for the purpose of conforming with procedural rules

— **party aggrieved**

: aggrieved party in this entry

— **party in interest**

1 : a person whose rights are or will be affected by an action taken especially by a government or judicial body especially : a person whose pecuniary interests are affected by a bankruptcy proceeding

2 : real party in interest in this entry

— **proper party**

: a party whose interests are likely to be affected by litigation and whose inclusion in the litigation is preferable but not essential

— **real party in interest**

: a party who according to the applicable law is entitled to enforce the right that forms the basis of the claim regardless of who will actually benefit by the outcome

Note: Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 17(a) requires that “an action must be prosecuted in the name of the real party in interest.”

— **third party**

1 : a person who is not a party to an action but who is or may be liable to the defendant in the action for all or part of the plaintiff's claim and against whom the defendant may bring a third-party complaint

2 : a person who is not a party to an action but who is or may be liable to the plaintiff in the action for all or part of a counterclaim and against whom the plaintiff may bring a third-party complaint — see also [third-party complaint](#)

2 : a group of persons usually sharing a set of political ideals who are organized for the purpose of directing the policies of a government

Keep scrolling for more

More from Merriam-Webster on *party*

Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for party](#)

Rhyming Dictionary: [Words that rhyme with party](#)

Spanish Central: [Translation of party](#)

Nglish: [Translation of party for Spanish Speakers](#)

Britannica English: [Translation of party for Arabic Speakers](#)

Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about party](#)

Comments on *party*

What made you want to look up *party*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

[SHOW COMMENTS](#) 

WORD OF THE DAY

posthaste 

with all possible speed

Get Word of the Day daily email!

Your email address

SUBSCRIBE

[Test Your Vocabulary](#)

Confusing Words—A Quiz

- I invented a brand new toaster robot and _____ it "Sir Toasts-a-Lot."

coined

coined and
dubbed are both
acceptable

dubbed

Can you spell these 10 commonly misspelled words?

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

Test Your Knowledge - and learn some interesting things along the way.

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

Love words? Need even more definitions?

Subscribe to America's largest dictionary and get thousands more definitions and advanced search—ad free!

MERRIAM-WEBSTER UNABRIDGED

WORDS AT PLAY

-

The Left Hand of (Supposed) Darkness

It depends on what side you're
coming from.

•

The Good, The Bad, & The Semantically Imprecise - 11/1/19

Words from the week of 11/1/2019

•

10 Words for Things Made From Apples

A collection of apple-related
products

•

'Trick or Treat': A History

Candy, costumes, and divine
mischief

ASK THE EDITORS

•

How Do You Pronounce 'Groceries'?

Is there one standard way?

•

Why Do People Pronounce It "Nucular"?

A linguistic analysis of a notorious pronunciation

•

Literally

How to use a word that (literally) drives some people nuts.

•

Is Singular 'They' a Better Choice?

The awkward case of 'his or her'

WORD GAMES

•

Confusing Words—A Quiz

Test your knowledge of these commonly confused words!

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

•

Here Be Dragons: A Creature Identification Quiz

[Director's Cut!](#)

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

•

Spell It

Can you spell these 10 commonly
misspelled words?

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

•

Add Diction

Build a chain of words by adding
one letter at a time.

[PLAY THE GAME](#)

Learn a new word every day. Delivered to your inbox!

Your email address

OTHER MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARIES

-
-
-
-

SPANISH CENTRAL

LEARNER'S ESL DICTIONARY

WORDCENTRAL FOR KIDS

VISUAL DICTIONARY

- [SCRABBLE® WORD FINDER](#)
- [MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY](#)
- [BRITANNICA ENGLISH - ARABIC TRANSLATION](#)
- [ENGLISH - SPANISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATION](#)

FOLLOW US



[Browse the Dictionary: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z](#)
[0-9](#)

[Home](#) | [Help](#) | [Apps](#) | [About Us](#) | [Shop](#) | [Advertising Info](#) | [Dictionary API](#) |
[Contact Us](#) | [Join MWU](#) | [Video](#) | [Word of the Year](#) | [Law Dictionary](#) |
[Medical Dictionary](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)

[Browse the Thesaurus](#) | [Browse the Medical Dictionary](#) | [Browse the Legal Dictionary](#) |
[Browse the Spanish-English Dictionary](#)

© 2019 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated