

Follow:

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



[SINCE 1828](#)

[Menu](#)

Dictionary

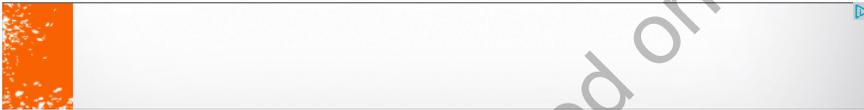
- Dictionary
- Thesaurus
- Scrabble
- Spanish Central
- Learner's Dictionary

property

[An Encyclopædia Britannica Company](#)

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

Follow:



## property

[play](#)

*noun* prop-er-ty \ˈprā-pər-tē\  
Popularity: Top 20% of words

### Simple Definition of *property*

- : something that is owned by a person, business, etc.
- : a piece of land often with buildings on it that is owned by a person, business, etc.
- : a special quality or characteristic of something

Source: Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary

[Examples: property in a sentence](#) ▾

[Tip: Synonym guide](#) ▾

- -
- -
- -
- -
- -
- -

[Writing? Check your grammar now!](#)

-

### Full Definition of *property*

*plural*

## properties

1. *1 a* : a quality or trait belonging and especially peculiar to an individual or thing *b* : an effect that an object has on another object or on the senses *c* : [virtue](#) *3d* : an attribute common to all members of a class
2. *2 a* : something owned or possessed; *specifically* : a piece of real estate *b* : the exclusive right to possess, enjoy, and dispose of a thing : [ownership](#) *c* : something to which a person or business has a legal title *d* : one (as a performer) who is under contract and whose work is especially valuable *e* : a book or script purchased for publication or production
3. *3* : an article or object used in a play or motion picture except painted scenery and costumes

## propertyless

[play](#) \-ləs\ *adjective*

## propertylessness

[play](#) \-nəs\ *noun*

See [property defined for English-language learners](#)

See [property defined for kids](#)

## Examples of *property* in a sentence

1. We are not responsible for the loss of *personal property*.
2. He was trying to sell *stolen property*.
3. He was caught trespassing on private *property*.
4. She owns all sorts of *property* around town.
5. The students were caught smoking on school *property*.
6. He owns several valuable *properties* in the area.
7. a developer of commercial *properties*
8. One of the *properties* of helium is its lightness.
9. A unique *property* of garlic is its strong odor.
10. The two plants have similar physical *properties*.

## Origin and Etymology of *property*

Middle English *proprete*, from Anglo-French *propreté*, from Latin *proprietas*-, *proprietas*, from *proprius* own

First Known Use: 14th century

## *property* Synonyms

Synonyms

[parcel](#), [plat](#), [plot](#), [lot](#), [tract](#)

Related Words

[patch](#); [frontage](#); [lease](#); [development](#); [real estate](#)

## Synonym Discussion of *property*

[quality](#), [property](#), [character](#), [attribute](#) mean an intelligible feature by which a thing may be identified. [quality](#) is a general term applicable to any trait or characteristic whether individual or generic <*material with a silky quality*>. [property](#) implies a characteristic that belongs to a thing's essential nature and may be used to describe a type

or species <the property of not conducting heat>. [character](#) applies to a peculiar and distinctive quality of a thing or a class <remarks of an unseemly character>. [attribute](#) implies a quality ascribed to a thing or a being <the attributes of a military hero>.

## Other Economics Terms

[actuary](#), [compound interest](#), [globalization](#), [indemnity](#), [portfolio](#), [rentier](#), [stagflation](#), [usurer](#)

## Phrases related to PROPERTY

### Related Phrases

- [common property](#)
- [property damage](#)
- [public property](#)

## PROPERTY Defined for Kids

### property

[play](#)

*noun* prop-er-ty \`prā-pər-tē\`

### Definition of *property* for Students

*plural*

### properties

1. *1* : something (as land or money) that is owned <That car is my property.>
2. *2* : a special quality of a thing <Sweetness is a property of sugar.>

## Law Dictionary

### property

*noun* prop-er-ty

### Legal Definition of *property*

*plural*

### properties

1. *1* : something (as an interest, money, or land) that is owned or possessed — see also [asset](#), [estate](#), [interest](#) 1, [possession](#) 1e **abandoned property** : property to which the owner has relinquished all rights *Editor's note*: When property is abandoned, the owner gives up the reasonable expectation of privacy concerning it. The finder of abandoned property is entitled to keep it, and a police officer may take possession of abandoned property as evidence without violating the guarantee against unreasonable searches and seizures in the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.**after-acquired property** *1* : property (as proceeds) that a debtor acquires after the commencement of a bankruptcy case and that is usually considered part of the bankruptcy estate *2* : property acquired after the perfection of a lien or security interest; *especially* : such property acquired after the creation of a lien or security interest that is subject to the lien or becomes collateral for the security interest *3* : property transferred to the estate of a decedent after execution of the will**common property** : property owned or used by more than one party; *specifically* : property owned or leased by tenants in common — compare [joint tenancy](#) and [tenancy by the entirety](#) at [tenancy](#) — [ownership in indivision](#) at [ownership](#) *Editor's note*: The states having community property laws are Louisiana, Arizona, California, Texas, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wisconsin.**immovable property** : *real property* in this entry; *specifically in the civil law of Louisiana* : tracts of land with their component parts**intangible property** \,in-tə-'lek-chə-wəl-\ : property that derives from the work of the mind or intellect; *specifically* : an idea, invention, trade secret, process, program, data, formula, patent, copyright, or trademark or application, right, or registration relating thereto**lost property** : property that has been left in an unknown location involuntarily but through no one's fault *Editor's note*: The finder of lost property has title to the property against all the world except the true owner.**marital property** : property acquired by either spouse during the course of a marriage that is subject to division upon divorce — see also [antenuptial agreement](#) *Editor's note*: In most states, upon divorce marital property is divided according to what the court determines is equitable.**movable property** : property (as personal property or crops) that can be moved**personal property** *1* : property (as a vehicle) that is movable but not including crops or other resources still attached to land : property other than real property <a tax on the personal property of the corporation> *2* : property belonging to a particular person**qualified terminable interest property** :

property passing to a surviving spouse that qualifies for the marital deduction if the executor so elects providing that the spouse is entitled to receive income in payments made at least annually for life and that no one has a power to appoint any part of the property to any person other than the surviving spouse — see also [QTIP trust](#) at [trust](#) *Editor's note:* Under federal tax law the property must be included in the gross estate of the surviving spouse at his or her own death, where it is subject to taxation. **real property** : property consisting of land, buildings, crops, or other resources still attached to or within the land or improvements or fixtures permanently attached to the land or a structure on it; *also* : an interest, benefit, right, or privilege in such property —called also *immovable property* **separate property** : property of a spouse that is not community property or marital property; *especially* : property acquired by a spouse before marriage or individually during marriage (as by gift or often by inheritance) **tangible property** : property that has a tangible and corporeal existence and intrinsic economic value because of it <*the insurance policy restricted property damage coverage to tangible property*> — compare *intangible property* in this entry

2. 2 : one or more rights of ownership

Last viewed on 11/15/2016

## Origin and Etymology of *property*

Anglo-French *propreté*, *propiété*, from Latin *proprietas*-, *proprietas*, from *proprius* own, particular

---

## Learn More about *property*

1. Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for \*property\*](#)Spanish Central: [Translation of \*property\*](#)Nglish: [Translation of \*property\* for Spanish speakers](#)Britannica English: [Translation of \*property\* for Arabic speakers](#)Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about \*property\*](#)
- 

## Seen and Heard

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



Turn everyday into payday with Instant Pay  
Get your side hustle on

DRIVE WITH UBER ▶

UBER

## WORD OF THE DAY

quid pro quo

play

something exchanged for something else

Get Word of the Day daily email!

SUBSCRIBE Your email address

- [proper adjective](#)
- [properate](#)
- [properation](#)
- [properdin](#)
- [proper fraction](#)
- [properispome](#)
- [properispomena](#)
- [properispomenon](#)
- [properly](#)
- [proper motion](#)
- [proper name](#)
- [properness](#)
- [proper noun](#)
- [propertied](#)
- [properties](#)

**TRENDS NOW**

- [proper to](#)
- [property](#) ideological, ideologue, & ideology Lookups spiked after Obama's comments
- [property damage](#)
- [property damage insurance](#) "I don't believe he is ideological"
- [property-increment tax](#)
- [property insurance](#) The word was used heavily in coverage of Trump's election
- [propertyless](#)
- [propertyless](#) "a hatred of women"
- [property man](#)
- [property man](#) S. Bellwether "An indicator of trends"
- [property right](#)
- [property tax](#)
- [prop forward](#)

**BROWSE DICTIONARY**

- [prophane](#)
- [previous](#)
- [prophasic](#)
- [prophecies](#)
- [prophecy](#)
- [prophesied](#)
- [prophesier](#)
- [prophesies](#)

Next

Last viewed on 11/15/2016

**WORD GAMES**

Take a 3-minute break and test your skills!



- Which is a synonym of **discomfit**?
- [eliminate](#) [supercede](#)
- [nonplus](#) [soothe](#)



Test your visual vocabulary with our 10-question challenge!

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)



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

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

**Words at Play**



[Is It 'Feel Bad' or 'Feel Badly'?](#)

[We feel good about answering this one](#)



[10 Food Words With Unappetizing Origins](#)

['Tapas', 'date', 'taco' & more](#)



[The Culinary Roots of 'Farce'](#)

[It's related to something called 'forcemeat'](#)

['Nail-Biter', 'Battleground State', and 7 More Words from Your Newsfeed](#)

[The history behind 9 words from the news](#)

**Ask the Editors**

Last viewed on 11/15/2016



**Hot Mess**

"The public is a hot mess"



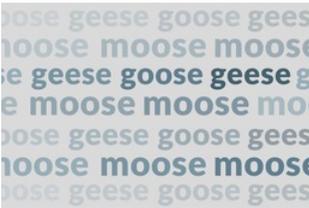
**How to Use the Subjunctive in English**

If I were you, I'd watch this



**Irregardless**

It is in fact a real word (but that doesn't mean you should use it).



**Weird Plurals**

One goose, two geese. One moose, two... moose. What's up with that?

**Word Games**



**Difficult Vocab Quiz**

Another round of challenging vocab!

Take the quiz

Last viewed on 11/15/2016



[Up in the Sky: A Quiz](#)

[It's a bird? It's a plane? No, I'm really asking. What is it?](#)

[Take the quiz](#)



[Name That Thing](#)

[Test your visual vocabulary with our 10-question challenge!](#)

[Take the quiz](#)



[SCRABBLE® Sprint](#)

[SCRABBLE® fans, sharpen your skills!](#)

[Play the game](#)

[Merriam Webster](#)

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

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

- [facebook](#)
- [twitter](#)
- [youtube](#)
- [instagram](#)
- [Browse the Dictionary:](#)
- [a](#)
- [b](#)
- [c](#)
- [d](#)
- [e](#)
- [f](#)
- [g](#)
- [h](#)
- [i](#)

Last viewed on 11/15/2016

- [i](#)
- [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](#)
- [About Our Ads](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [The Open Dictionary](#)
- [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](#)

© 2016 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated



Last viewed on 11/15/2016

Last viewed on 11/15/2016

