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cycle

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cyele (<http://static.sfdict.com/staticrep/dictaudio/C10/C1084500.mp3>)

[**sahy**-kuh l]

Examples Word Origin

noun

1. any complete round or series of occurrences that repeats or is repeated.
2. a round of years or a recurring period of time, especially one in which certain events or phenomena repeat themselves in the same order and at the same intervals.
3. any long period of years; age.
4. a bicycle, motorcycle, tricycle, etc.
5. a group of poems, dramas, prose narratives, songs etc., about a central theme, figure, or the like:
"the Arthurian cycle."
6. *Physics.*
 - a. a sequence of changing states that, upon completion, produces a final state identical to the original one.
 - b. one of a succession of periodically recurring events.
 - c. a complete alteration in which a phenomenon attains a maximum and minimum value, returning to a final value equal to the original one.

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7. *Mathematics.* a permutation of a set of elements that leaves the original cyclic order of the elements unchanged.

verb (used without object), **cycled**, **cycling**.

9. to ride or travel by bicycle (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/bicycle>), motorcycle (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/motorcycle>), tricycle (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/tricycle>), etc.
10. to move or revolve in cycles; pass through cycles.

Idioms

11. **hit for the cycle**, *Baseball.* (of one player) to hit a single, double, triple, and home run in one game.

Origin

ate Latin <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Late%20Latin> Middle English <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Middle%20English> Greek <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Greek>

1350-1400

1350-1400; Middle English *cicle* < Late Latin *cyclus* < Greek *kýklos* cycle, circle, wheel, ring, disk,

orb; see wheel (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/wheel>)

Related forms

supercycle, noun

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Examples for cycle

It coincides with the fruit harvest, and marks the end of the agricultural *cycle*.

This cross breeding has the added effect of confusing the breeding *cycle*.

This exposes the animal to danger and also disrupts the breeding *cycle*.

British Dictionary definitions for cycle

cycle

/ˈsaɪkəl/

noun

1. a recurring period of time in which certain events or phenomena occur and reach completion or repeat themselves in a regular sequence
2. a completed series of events that follows or is followed by another series of similar events occurring in the same sequence
3. the time taken or needed for one such series

4. a vast period of time; age; aeon
5. a group of poems or prose narratives forming a continuous story about a central figure or event the Arthurian cycle

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Word Origin and History for cycle

n.

late 14c., from Late Latin *cyclus*, from Greek *kyklos* "circle, wheel, any circular body, circular motion, cycle of events," from PIE **kwel-* "to roll, to move around, wheel" (cf. Sanskrit *cakram* "circle, wheel," *carati* "he moves, wanders;" Avestan *caraiti* "applies himself," *c'axra* "chariot, wagon;" Greek *polos* "a round axis" (PIE **kw-* becomes Greek *p-* before some vowels), *polein* "move around;" Latin *colere* "to frequent, dwell in, to cultivate, move around," *cultus* "tended, cultivated," hence also "polished," *colonus* "husbandman, tenant farmer, settler, colonist;" Lithuanian *kelias* "a road, a way;" Old Norse *hvel*, Old English *hweol* "wheel;" Old Russian *kolo*, Polish *koło*, Russian *koleso* "a wheel").

v.

1842, "revolve in cycles," from cycle (/browse/cycle) (*n.*). Meaning "to ride a bicycle" is from 1883. Related: *Cycled*; *cycling*.

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cycle in Medicine

cycle cy·cle (sī'kəl)

n.

1. An interval of time during which a characteristic, often regularly repeated event or sequence of events occurs.

2. A single complete execution of a periodically repeated phenomenon.
3. A periodically repeated sequence of events.

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cycle in Science

cycle

(<http://static.sfdict.com/dictstatic/dictionary/audio/ahsd/C/C0084000.mp3>)

(sī'kəl) (<http://content.dictionary.com/help/dictionary/ahsd/pronkey.html>)

1. A single complete execution of a periodically repeated phenomenon. See also period (/browse/period).
2. A circular or whorled arrangement of flower parts such as those of petals or stamens.

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cycle in Technology

unit

A basic unit of computation, one period of a computer clock

(<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/clock>).

Each instruction (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/instruction>) takes a number of clock cycles. Often the computer can access its memory once on every clock cycle, and so one speaks also of "memory cycles".

Every hacker (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/hacker>) wants more cycles (noted hacker Bill Gosper describes himself as a "cycle junkie"). There are only so many cycles per second, and when you are sharing a computer the cycles get divided up among the users. The more cycles the computer spends working on your program rather than someone else's, the faster your program will run. That's why every hacker wants more cycles: so he can spend less time waiting for the computer to respond. The use of the term "cycle" for a computer clock period can probably be traced back to the rotation of a generator generating alternating current though computers generally use a clock signal which is more like a square wave (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/square%20wave>). Interestingly, the earliest mechanical calculators, e.g. Babbage's Difference Engine (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Difference%20Engine>), really did have parts which rotated in true cycles.

[Jargon File (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Jargon%20File>)]
(1997-09-30)

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