



¹mask 

noun | \ˈmask\

Popularity: Bottom 40% of words



Definition of MASK

- 1 **a** (1) : a cover or partial cover for the face used for disguise (2) : a person wearing a mask : **MASKER**
b (1) : a figure of a head worn on the stage in antiquity to identify the character and project the voice (2) : a grotesque false face worn at carnivals or in rituals
c : an often grotesque carved head or face used as an ornament (as on a keystone)
d : a sculptured face or a copy of a face made by means of a mold
- 2 **a** : something that serves to conceal or disguise : **PRETENSE**, **CLOAK** <aware of the *masks*, facades and defenses people erect to protect themselves — Kenneth Keniston>
b : something that conceals from view
c : a translucent or opaque screen to cover part of the sensitive surface in taking or printing a photograph
d : a pattern of opaque material used to shield selected areas of a surface (as of a semiconductor) in deposition or etching (as in producing an integrated circuit)

- 3** **a** : a protective covering for the face
 b : **GAS MASK**
 c : a device covering the mouth and nose to facilitate inhalation
 d : a comparable device to prevent exhalation of infective material
 e : a cosmetic preparation for the skin of the face that produces a tightening effect as it dries
- 4** **a** : the head or face of an animal (as a fox or dog)
 b : an area (as the one around the eyes) of an animal's face that is distinguished by usually darker coloring

See **mask defined for English-language learners**

See **mask defined for kids**

See **words that rhyme with mask**

Examples of MASK in a sentence

Everyone wore costumes and *masks* to the dance.

Doctors wear surgical *masks* in the operating room.

Origin and Etymology of MASK

Middle French *masque*, from Old Italian *maschera*

First Known Use: 1534

MASK Synonyms

Synonyms

vizard

Related Words

camouflage, costume, disguise, guise; bill, cloak, domino, hood, veil, visor (*also* vizer)

²mask

verb

Definition of MASK

intransitive verb

- 1 : to take part in a masquerade
- 2 **a** : to assume a mask
b : to disguise one's true character or intentions

transitive verb

- 1 : to provide or conceal with a mask: as
a : to conceal from view <*mask* a gun battery>
b : to make indistinct or imperceptible <*masks* undesirable flavors>
c : to cover up <*masked* his real purpose>
- 2 : to cover for protection
- 3 : to modify the size or shape of (as a photograph) by means of an opaque border

—**masklike**  \-,līk\ *adjective*

See *mask* defined for English-language learners

Examples of MASK in a sentence

The house was *masked* by trees.

They tried to *mask* their real purpose.

She tried using perfume to *mask* the bad odor.

First Known Use of MASK

circa 1562

Circa 1562

MASK Synonyms

Synonyms

camouflage, cloak, dress up, disguise

Antonyms

unmask

Synonym Discussion of MASK

DISGUISE, **CLOAK**, **MASK** mean to alter the dress or appearance of so as to conceal the identity or true nature. **DISGUISE** implies a change in appearance or behavior that misleads by presenting a different apparent identity <*disguised* herself as a peasant>. **CLOAK** suggests a means of hiding a movement or an intention <*cloaked* their maneuvers in secrecy>. **MASK** suggests some often obvious means of hiding or disguising something <smiling to *mask* his discontent>.

MASK Defined for English Language Learners

²mask
verb

Definition of MASK FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

: to hide (something) from sight

: to keep (something) from being known or noticed

MASK Defined for Kids

¹mask 
noun | \ˈmask\

Definition of MASK for Students

1 : a cover for the face or part of the face used for disguise or protection <a Halloween *mask*> <a catcher's *mask*>

2 : something that disguises or conceals <She visited under a *mask* of friendship.>

² mask 

verb

Definition of MASK for Students

masked **masking**

: CONCEAL, DISGUISE <She found it difficult to *mask* her anger.>

Medical Dictionary

¹ mask 

noun | \ˈmask\

Medical Definition of MASK

- 1** : a protective covering for the face
- 2 a:** any of various devices that cover the mouth and nose and are used to prevent inhalation of dangerous substances, to facilitate delivery of a gas (as oxygen or a general anesthetic), or to prevent the dispersal of exhaled infective material—see **gas mask**, **oxygen mask**

- 3** : a cosmetic preparation for the skin of the face that produces a tightening effect as it dries

²mask

transitive verb

Medical Definition of MASK

- 1** : to prevent (an atom or group of atoms) from showing its ordinary reactions <to *mask* hydroxyl in a sugar by converting it into methoxyl>
- 2** : to modify or reduce the effect or activity of (as a process or a reaction)
- 3** : to make indistinct or imperceptible <flavorings used in pharmacy to *mask* the taste of medications>
- 4** : to raise the audibility threshold of (a sound) by the simultaneous presentation of another sound

Learn More about MASK

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

Spanish Central: [Translation of *mask*](#)

Nglish: [Translation of *mask* for Spanish speakers](#)

Britannica English: [Translation of *mask* for Arabic speakers](#)

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

Seen and Heard

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WORD OF THE DAY

lave



to wash or bathe

Get Word of the Day daily email!

TRENDING NOW

- 1

Godspeed

The same words sent him into orbit in...
- 2

infamy

The anniversary of Pearl Harbor
- 3

noel

'Tis the season
- 4

flummadiddle, puppy

So many puppies
- 5

in omnia paratus

"You jump, I jump"

SEE ALL >

BROWSE DICTIONARY

- mashie
- mashie iron
- mashie niblick
- mashlum
- mash note
- Mask

WORD GAMES

Take a 3-minute break and test your skills!



The *bounty* portion of bounty hunters (such as Boba Fett) comes from a Latin word meaning

hired

bad

criminal

good



Test your visual vocabulary with our 10-question challenge!

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

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WORDS AT PLAY



It's 'Kismet'

This article is your destiny



Jedi: Now in a Galaxy Near You

No robes required



The Putrid Origin of 'Potpourri'

It shares a root with 'putrescent'



Can a Single Person Be a 'Troop'?

Many people are confused about this word

ASK THE EDITORS



Hot Mess

"The public is a hot mess"



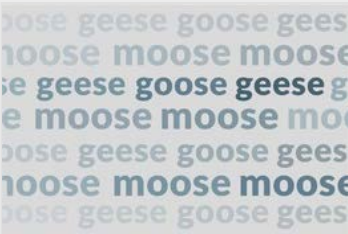
How to Use the Subjunctive in English

If I were you, I'd watch this



Irregardless

It is in fact a real word (but that doesn't n ...



Weird Plurals

One goose, two geese.
One moose, tw ...

WORD GAMES



Star Wars Words Quiz

Is the Force strong in you?

TAKE THE QUIZ >



A More Exception(al) Quiz

Which of these things doesn't belong?

TAKE THE QUIZ >



Name That Thing

Test your visual vocabulary with ou ...

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Examples: MASK in a sentence □

Tip: Synonym guide □



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