



separate

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separate

 1 of 3 verb

se·pa·rate ('se-pə-,rāt) 'se-,prāt

separated; separating

[Synonyms of separate](#) >

transitive verb

- 1 **a** : to set or keep apart : **DISCONNECT**, **SEVER**
b : to make a distinction between : **DISCRIMINATE**, **DISTINGUISH**
separate religion from magic
c : **SORT**
separate mail
d : to disperse in space or time : **SCATTER**
widely separated homesteads
- 2 **archaic** : to set aside for a special purpose : **CHOOSE**, **DEDICATE**
- 3 : to part by a legal separation:
a : to sever **conjugal** ties with
b : to sever contractual relations with : **DISCHARGE**
was separated from the army
- 4 : to block off : **SEGREGATE**
- 5 **a** : to isolate from a mixture : **EXTRACT**
separate cream from milk
b : to divide into **constituent** parts

- 6 : to dislocate (something, such as a shoulder) especially in sports



verb 3 Synonyms Synonym Chooser Example Sentences Word History Phrase



2 a : to sever an association : **WITHDRAW**

b : to cease to live together as a married couple

3 : to go in different directions

4 : to become isolated from a mixture

the crystals *separated* out

separate 2 of 3 adjective

sep·a·rate 'se-p(ə-)rət

1 a : set or kept apart : **DETACHED**

b archaic : **SOLITARY, SECLUDED**

c : **IMMATERIAL, DISEMBODIED**

2 a : not shared with another : **INDIVIDUAL**

separate rooms

b often capitalized : **estranged** from a parent body

separate churches

3 a : existing by itself : **AUTONOMOUS**

a *separate* country

b : dissimilar in nature or identity

consulted five *separate* authorities

'se-p(ə-)rət-nəs noun

separate 3 of 3 noun



verb **3** Synonyms Synonym Chooser Example Sentences Word History Phrase

costume combinations → usually used in plural

Verb

break up	decouple
disassociate	disconnect
disjoin	disjoint
dissever	dissociate
disunite	divide
divorce	part
ramify	resolve
sever	split
sunder	uncouple
unlink	unyoke

Adjective

different	individual
respective	

[See all Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus >](#)

Choose the Right Synonym for *separate*



verb **3**  [Synonyms](#) [Synonym Chooser](#) [Example Sentences](#) [Word History](#) [Phrase](#)

SEPARATE may imply any of several causes such as dispersion, removal of one from others, or presence of an intervening thing.

separated her personal life from her career

PART implies the separating of things or persons in close union or association.

vowed never to *part*

DIVIDE implies separating into pieces or sections by cutting or breaking.

civil war *divided* the nation

SEVER implies violence especially in the removal of a part or member.

a *severed* limb

SUNDER suggests violent rending or wrenching apart.

a city *sundered* by racial conflict

DIVORCE implies separating two things that commonly interact and belong together.

cannot *divorce* scientific research from moral responsibility

Adjective

DISTINCT, **SEPARATE**, **DISCRETE** mean not being each and every one the same.

DISTINCT indicates that something is distinguished by the mind or eye as being apart or different from others.

two *distinct* versions

SEPARATE often stresses lack of connection or a difference in identity between two things.

separate rooms



verb 3 Synonyms Synonym Chooser Example Sentences Word History Phrase

Verb

Though mechanical grain cutters, called reapers, began appearing around 1800, it was with Cyrus H. McCormick's version that agriculture entered the industrial age. Older reapers simply cut and dropped grain; McCormick's cut, *separated*, and collected it, increasing production and, ultimately, positioning the American Midwest as the breadbasket to the world.

— *Saveur*, June/July 2008

Xanthan gum, for instance ... is used in bottled salad dressing to slow the settling of the spice particles and keep water and oil from *separating*.

— Kenneth Chang, *New York Times*, 6 Nov. 2007

The fact is that Washington has relaxed financial regulations under both Democratic and Republican administrations, opening the doors to conflicts of interest between brokers and investment bankers. In 1998, government, despite concerns, refused to *separate* consulting and auditing business.

— Jeff Madrick, *New York Times Book Review*, 29 Jan. 2006

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Recent Examples on the Web

Verb

Orlando plays at Brooklyn (44-36) and at Miami (43-37), *separated* by one game for sixth place in the East.

— Afentres, *oregonlive*, 8 Apr. 2023



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each universe separated by a vast and ever-growing expanse of absolutely nothing.

— *Popular Mechanics*, 7 Apr. 2023

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Etymology

Verb, Adjective, and Noun

Middle English, from Latin *separatus*, past participle of *separare*, from *se-* apart + *parare* to prepare, procure — more at [SECEDE](#), [PARE](#)

First Known Use

Verb

15th century, in the meaning defined at [transitive sense 1a](#)

Adjective

15th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

Noun

1886, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *separate* was in the 15th century

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



verb **3** Synonyms Synonym Chooser Example Sentences Word History Phrase

separate out

separate the sheep from the goats

under separate cover

separate off

separate the wheat from the chaff

go separate ways

[See More](#)

separata

separate

Separate Baptist

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Style

MLA

"Separate." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/separate>. Accessed 26 Apr. 2023.

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separate 1 of 3 verb

sep·a·rate ('sep-ə-,rāt ▶▶)

separated; separating

1 a : to set or keep apart

separate the pages with a slip of paper

b : to make a distinction between : **DISTINGUISH**

separate fact from fiction

c : **SORT entry 2 sense 1**

separate mail

d : to spread widely in space or time : **SCATTER**

widely *separated* homesteads

2 : to end a relationship with that is bound by a contract

separated from the army

3 : to isolate or become isolated from a **mixture**

separate cream from milk

4 : to become divided or detached : come apart

5 : to cease to live together as a married couple

6 : to go in different directions

senarate 2 of 3 adjective



verb **3** Synonyms Synonym Chooser Example Sentences Word History Phrase

2 : not shared with another : **INDIVIDUAL**

separate rooms

3 : having independent existence

the *separate* pieces of a puzzle

adverb

noun

separate 3 of 3 noun

sep·a·rate 'sep-(ə-)rət

: an article of dress designed to be worn interchangeably with others to form different outfits → usually used in plural

separate verb

sep·a·rate 'sep-(ə-),rāt

separated; separating

transitive verb

1 : to isolate from a mixture : **EXTRACT**

2 : **DISLOCATE**

separated his right shoulder

verb **3**

Synonyms

Synonym Chooser

Example Sentences

Word History

Phrase

separate verb

sep·a·rate 'se-pə-,rāt

separated; separating

transitive verb

: to cause the separation of

intransitive verb

: to undergo a separation

the couple *separated* last year

→ compare **DIVORCE**

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

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verb **3** ▼

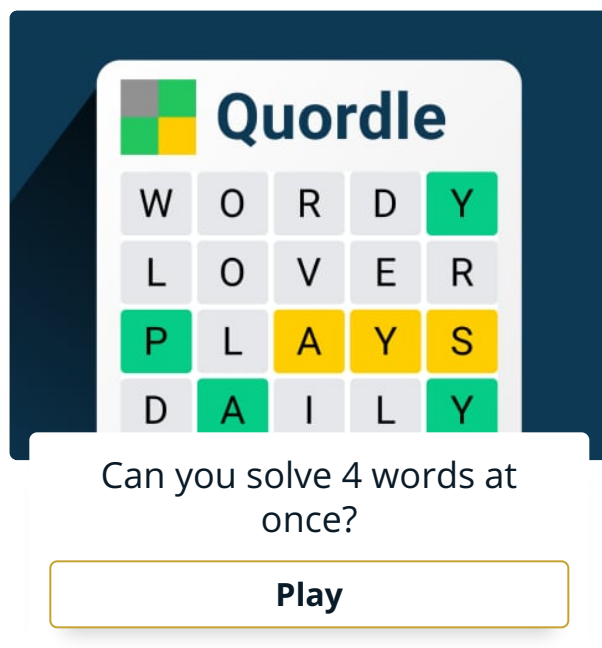
Synonyms

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WORDS AT PLAY

verb **3** 

Synonyms

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12 Political Putdowns

For When 'Lowdown Crook'
Isn't Specific Enough

Absent Letters That Are Heard Anyway

When letters make sounds
that aren't associated w...

Better Ways to Say "This Sucks"

Go on...make your English
teacher proud.



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When Were Words First Used?

Look up any year to find out

ASK THE EDITORS

Weird Plurals

One goose, two geese. One moose, two... moose. Wh...

Irregardless

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

verb **3** 

Synonyms

Synonym Chooser

Example Sentences

Word History

Phrase

Bring vs. Take

Both words imply motion,
but the difference may b...

Defenestration

The fascinating story behind
many people's favori...

WORD GAMES

verb **3** 

Synonyms

Synonym Chooser

Example Sentences

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Phrase

Famous Novels, Last Lines

Needless to say, spoiler alert.

TAKE THE QUIZ

Farm Idioms Quiz

If you've got a pig in a poke -
what exactly is a...

TAKE THE QUIZ

Name That Thing

You know what it looks like...
but what is it cal...

TAKE THE QUIZ

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Spelling Bee Quiz

Can you outdo past winners
of the National Spelli...

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