



HOME  
PREMIUM SERVICES ▼

M-WCollegiate.com  
M-WUnabridged.com  
Britannica.com  
Multi-User Licenses

DOWNLOADS  
WORD OF THE DAY  
WORD GAMES  
WORD FOR THE WISE  
ONLINE STORE  
HELP

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
Company information

## Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

### separate

3 entries found for **separate**.  
To select an entry, click on it.

separate[1,verb]   
separate[2,adjective]  
separate[3,noun]

Main Entry: **<sup>1</sup>sep·a·rate**

Pronunciation: 'se-p(&-)"rAt

Function: *verb*

Inflected Form(s): **-rat·ed; -rat·ing**

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

*transitive senses*

**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](#)

**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 (as a shoulder) especially in sports  
*intransitive senses*

**1 :** to become divided or detached

**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

**synonyms** [SEPARATE](#), [PART](#), [DIVIDE](#), [SEVER](#), [SUNDER](#), [DIVORCE](#) mean to become or cause to become disunited or disjointed. [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](#)

Thesaurus

### Merriam-Webster Online

☒ Dictionary  
☐ Thesaurus

### Browse by letter:

[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](#)

Browse words next to:  
[separate](#)



### Babylon-Pro

Get instant results from Merriam-Webster in any desktop application in a single click

[Merriam-Webster on Babylon-Pro](#)

### Handheld Collegiate

Now you can take the Eleventh Edition with you anywhere as Franklin's new Speaking Electronic Handheld!

[Franklin.com/estore](#)

Merriam-Webster  
**Collegiate.com**  
**14-day Free Trial**

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>.

For [More Information on "separate" go to Britannica.com](#)

Get the [Top 10 Search Results for "separate"](#)

#### [Pronunciation Symbols](#)

[Products](#)[Premium Services](#)[Company Info](#)[Contact Us](#)[Advertising Info](#)[Privacy Policy](#)

© 2005 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated