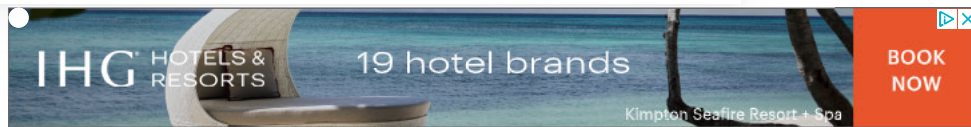


< lateral



Dictionary

Thesaurus



lateral

 1 of 3 **adjective**

lat-er-al ('la-tə-rəl) also 'la-trəl

[Synonyms of lateral >](#)

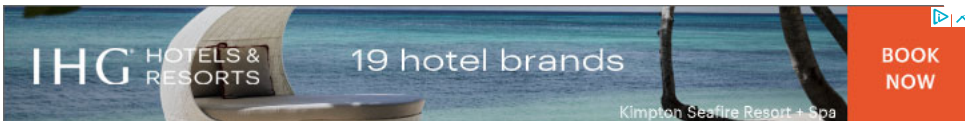
- 1** : of or relating to the side
a *lateral* view
- 2** : situated on, directed toward, or coming from the side
the *lateral* branches of a tree
- 3** : extending from side to side
the *lateral* axis of an airplane
- 4** **phonetics** : produced with passage of breath around the side of a constriction formed with the tongue
\\ is *lateral*

adverb

lateral

 2 of 3 **noun**

- 1** : a branch from the main part (as in an irrigation or electrical system)
- 2** : a pass in football thrown parallel to the line of scrimmage or in a direction away from the opponent's goal

**lateraled; lateraling; laterals***intransitive verb*

: to throw a lateral

**PARKED CARS GET HOT, FAST.
CHECK THE BACK SEAT.**



Dictionary

Thesaurus

Lateral shows up in all kinds of contexts. A lateral job change is one that keeps you at about the same job level and salary. A coach might have special drills to improve his players' lateral speed and agility. The British speak of "lateral thinking", thinking that grabs ideas that may not seem to be relevant but turn out to work well—what we might call "thinking outside the box". But we know *lateral* best from football. A lateral pass is a pass of the ball between teammates that usually goes to the side and slightly backward from the direction in which they're advancing; unlike a forward pass, a lateral may be made from any position, and any number may be made in a single play.

Adjective

side

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

Adjective

the *lateral* force of an earthquake

from the *lateral* view you can see how thick the wall really is

Recent Examples on the Web

Adjective

eral wells that slash through hard shale

The low bulwarks and *lateral* walkways continue a sense of space.

— Julia Zaltzman, *Robb Report*, 24 Nov. 2023

[See More](#) ▾

These examples are programmatically compiled from various online sources to illustrate current usage of the word 'lateral.' Any opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#) about these examples.

<

Dictionary

Thesaurus



Etymology

Adjective, Noun, and Verb

Middle English *laterale*, from Latin *lateralis*, from *later-*, *latus* side

First Known Use

Adjective

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

Noun

1578, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Verb

1930, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Time Traveler

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

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

[amyotrophic lateral sclerosis](#)

[lateral bud](#)

[lateral line](#)

[lateral thinking](#)



[laterad](#)
lateral
[lateral bud](#)

See More Nearby Entries >



Dictionary

Thesaurus

"Lateral." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lateral>. Accessed 10 Dec. 2023.

[Copy Citation](#)


Facebook



Twitter



lateral ^{1 of 2} adjective

lat·er·al 'lat-ə-rəl 'la-trəl

- 1** : of or relating to the side : located on, directed toward, or coming from the side
- 2** : being a part of the boundary of a solid in geometry that is not a base or completely included in a base
a lateral edge of a prism
a lateral face

-ē adverb

lateral ^{2 of 2} noun

TearThePaperCeiling.org



lateral adjective

lat·er·al 'lat-ə-rəl, 'la-trəl

: of or relating to the side

Ex. 2032-004

om the median axis of the body

Dictionary

Thesaurus

Nglish: [Translation of *lateral* for Spanish Speakers](#)
Britannica English: [Translation of *lateral* for Arabic Speakers](#)
Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about *lateral*](#)

Last Updated: 10 Dec 2023 - Updated example sentences

Love words? Need even more definitions?

Subscribe to America's largest dictionary and get thousands more definitions and advanced search—ad free!

MERRIAM-WEBSTER UNABRIDGED

Quordle

W	O	R	D	Y
L	O	V	E	R
P	L	A	Y	S
D	A	I	L	Y

Can you solve 4 words at once?

Play

Merriam-Webster

WORD OF THE DAY



Dictionary

Thesaurus

Get Word of the Day daily email!

Your email address

SUBSCRIBE

Games & Quizzes

Quordle

Can you solve 4 words at once?

Play

Blossom Word Game

You can make only 12 words. Pick the best ones!

Play

Missing Letter

A crossword with a twist

Play

Spelling Bee Quiz

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

Take the quiz



SUBSCRIBE

Dictionary

Thesaurus

OTHER MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARIES

- MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY
- SCRABBLE® WORD FINDER
- MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY API
- ENGLISH - SPANISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATION
- BRITANNICA ENGLISH - ARABIC TRANSLATION

Browse the Dictionary: 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 0-9 BIO GEO

Home | Help | About Us | Shop | Advertising Info | Dictionary API | Contact Us | Join MWU | Videos | Word of the Year | Kid's Dictionary | Law Dictionary | Medical Dictionary | Privacy Policy | Terms of Use

Browse the Thesaurus | Browse the Medical Dictionary | Browse the Legal Dictionary | Browse the Kid's Dictionary

© 2023 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

ADVERTISEMENT