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sheath



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[sheeth]

☒ Phonetic (Standard)☐ IPA**noun**, Plural **sheaths** [shee, th, z].

- 1 a case or covering for the blade of a sword, dagger, or the like.
- 2 any similar close-fitting covering or case.
- 3 a condom.
- 4 *Biology*. a closely enveloping part or structure, as in an animal or plant.
- 5 *Botany*. the leaf base when it forms a vertical coating surrounding the stem.
- 6 a close-fitting dress, skirt, or coat, especially an unbelted dress with a straight drape.
- 7 *Electricity*. the metal covering of a cable.
- 8 *Electronics*.
 - a the metal wall of a wave guide.
 - b a space charge formed by ions near an electrode in a tube containing low-pressure gas.
 - c the region of a space charge in a cathode-ray tube.

verb (used with object)

1 to [sheathe](#).

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Other Words From

- **sheath** less adjective
- **sheath** like **sheath** y adjective

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Word History and Origins

Origin of [sheath](#)¹

before 950; *Middle English* s (c) heth (e), *Old English* scēath; cognate with *German Scheide*; [shed](#)²

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Example Sentences

The included rugged leather sheath securely attaches to a belt.

From [Outside Online](#)

Inside the branches, the trunk and big roots, an actively growing sheath surrounds the inner ghost plumbing.

From [Science News](#)

Each season, this whole sheath adds a layer of carbon-capturing tissue from root to crown.

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From [Science News](#)

They can essentially shut down for months or even years at a time, and one species can ride out dry spells in a protective mucus sheath.

From [Vox](#)

It measures in at 7 and ¼ inches in length, and includes a wooden sheath for easy storage and protection.

From [Popular-Science](#)

De la Renta did design some stuff for Kennedy too—notably, one perfect belted sheath in crisp white linen.

From [The Daily Beast](#)

Finally, she slithered into a finished dress: the ultimate chic sheath, a collarless long-sleeved navy blue garment.

From [The Daily Beast](#)

And she has been spotted wearing nothing but the most discrete, tailored sheath dresses.

From [The Daily Beast](#)

The first lady wore a Michael Kors sheath with a matching cropped jacket and traditional pearls.

From [The Daily Beast](#)

The brightly colored sheath was a form of political détente and self-definition.

From [The Daily Beast](#)

The Datto complaisantly allowed me to draw it from the sheath and pass it round to my friends.

From [Project Gutenberg](#)

Whipping the long, keen blade from its sheath, Marius bore down upon the rash meddler.

From [Project Gutenberg](#)

Tail truncated, spine on the side of the tail very distinct, imbedded in a sheath.

From [Project Gutenberg](#)

He saw a large sheath-knife, and secured that in his own belt; then he took a mouthful of wine, and went to his post.

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He was trying to 286 work the knife from its sheath before I could force him backward or break his neck.

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a genre of Scottish film

a meaningless plot device

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View synonyms for [flat](#) ↗

American

British

flat¹

[flat]

☒ Phonetic (Standard) ☐ IPA**adjective, *flat·ter*, *flat·test*.**

1 horizontally level:

*a flat roof.***Synonyms:** [plane](#)

2 level, even, or without unevenness of surface, as land or tabletops.

3 having a surface that is without marked projections or depressions:

*a broad, flat face.*4 lying horizontally and at full length, as a person; [prostrate](#):*He was flat on the canvas after the knockdown.***Synonyms:** [prone](#), [low](#)**Antonyms:** [vertical](#), [upright](#)

5 lying wholly on or against something:

The banner was flat against the wall.

6 thrown down, laid low, or level with the ground, as fallen trees or buildings.

7 having a generally level shape or appearance; not deep or thick:

a flat plate.

8 (of the heel of a shoe) low and broad.

9 spread out, as an unrolled map or the open hand.

10 deflated; collapsed:

a flat tire.

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| flat writing.

Synonyms: [prosaic](#), [spiritless](#), [boring](#)

Antonyms: [spirited](#)

15 having lost its flavor, sharpness, or life, as wine or food; stale.

16 (of a beverage) having lost its effervescence.

17 without flavor; not spiced:

| flat cooking.

Synonyms: [unsavory](#), [vapid](#)

Antonyms: [savory](#), [flavorful](#)

18 prosaic, banal, or insipid:

| a flat style.

19 pointless, as a remark or joke.

20 commercially inactive:

| a flat day in the stock market.

21 (of a painting) not having the illusion of volume or depth.

22 (of a photograph or painting) lacking contrast or gradations of tone or color.

23 (of paint) without gloss; not shiny; mat.

24 not clear, sharp, or ringing, as sound or a voice.

25 lacking resonance and variation in pitch; monotonous:

| a flat delivery of the speech.

26 *Music.*

a (of a tone) lowered a half step in pitch:

| B flat.

b below an intended pitch, as a note; too low ([sharp](#)).

27 *Grammar.* derived without change in form, as English *to brush* from the noun *brush* and adverbs that do not add *-ly* to the adjective form as *fast*, *cheap*, and *slow*.

28 *Phonetics.* lenis; voiced.

29 *Nautical.* (of a sail)

a cut with little or no fullness.

b trimmed as nearly fore-and-aft as possible, for sailing to windward.

30 **flat a**, the *ɑ* -sound (a) of *glad*, *bat*, or *act*.

noun

- 1 something flat.
- 2 a shoe, especially a woman's shoe, with a flat heel or no heel.
- 3 a flat surface, side, or part of anything:
 He struck me with the flat of his hand.
- 4 flat or level ground; a flat area:
 salt flats.
- 5 a marsh, shoal, or shallow.
- 6 *Music.*
 - a (in musical notation) the character *b*, which when attached to a note or to a staff degree lowers its significance one chromatic half step.
 - b a tone one chromatic half step below another:
 The flat of B is B flat.
 - c (on keyboard instruments, with reference to any given note) the key next below or to the left.
- 7 *Theater.* a piece of scenery consisting of a wooden frame, usually rectangular, covered with lightweight board or fabric.
- 8 a broad, thin book, chiefly for children:
 a juvenile flat.
- 9 *Informal.* a deflated automobile tire.
- 10 (in postal use) a large flat package, as in a manila envelope, for mailing.
- 11 *Architecture.* a flat roof or deck.
- 12 *Nautical.*
 - a Also called [platform](#), a partial deck between two full decks.
 - b a low, flat barge or lighter.
- 13 *Shipbuilding.*
 - a a broad, flat piece of iron or steel for overlapping and joining two plates at their edges.
 - b a straight timber in a frame or other assembly of generally curved timbers.
- 14 an iron or steel bar of rectangular cross section.
- 15 *Textiles.* one of a series of laths covered with card clothing, used in conjunction with the cylinder in carding.
- 16 *Photography.* one or more negatives or positives in position to be reproduced.
- 17 *Printing.* a device for holding a negative or positive flat for reproduction by photoengraving.
 Advertisement
- 18 *Horticulture.* a shallow, lidless box or tray used for rooting seeds and cuttings and for growing young plants.
- 19 a similar box used for shipping and selling fruits and vegetables.
- 20 *Football.* the area of the field immediately inside of or outside of an offensive end, close behind or at the line of scrimmage.
- 21 *flats, Informal.* flat races between horses. Compare [flat race \(def \)](#).

verb (used with object), flat·ted, flat·ting.

- 1 to make flat.
- 2 *Music.* to lower (a pitch), especially one half step.

verb (used without object), *flat·ted, flat·ting.*

- 1 to become flat.

adverb

- 1 in a flat position; horizontally; levelly.
- 2 in a flat manner; positively; absolutely.
- 3 completely; utterly:
| *flat broke.*
- 4 exactly; precisely:
| *She ran around the track in two minutes flat.*
- 5 *Music.* below the true pitch:
| *to sing flat.*
- 6 *Finance.* without interest.

verb phrase

- 1 *Nautical.* to pull the clew of (a fore-and-aft sail) as nearly amidships as possible. Also **flatten in**.

flat²  

[flat] ☒ Phonetic (Standard) ☐ IPA

noun, *Chiefly British.*

- 1 an apartment or suite of rooms on one floor forming a residence.

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Other Words From

- **flat·ly** adverb
- **flat·ness** noun
- **un·flat·ted** adjective

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Word History and Origins

Origin of **flat**¹

First recorded in 1275–1325; *Middle English*, from *Old Norse* *flatr*; akin to *Old English* *flet* “the ground, a floor of a house,” *Greek* *platýs* “wide, broad”; [flat](#)²; [plate](#)

Origin of [flat](#)²

First recorded in 1795–1805; variant of obsolete *flet*, from *Old English*; [flat](#)¹

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Idioms and Phrases

[Idioms](#)

- 1 **fall flat**, to fail to produce the desired effect; fail completely:
His attempts at humor fell flat.
- 2 **flat aft**, *Nautical*. trimmed so that fore-and-aft sails present as flat a surface as possible, as in sailing close to the wind.
- 3 **flat out**, *Informal*.
 - a without hesitation; directly or openly:
He told us flat out he'd been a double agent.
 - b at full speed or with maximum effort.
- 4 **flat on one's back**. [back](#)¹([def 48](#)).

More idioms and phrases containing *flat*

- caught flat-footed
- fall flat
- in no time (nothing flat)
- leave flat

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Synonym Study

See [level](#).

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Example Sentences

Print advertisements for Quaker Rice Cakes from that period show thin, grinning models lying on their flat leotard-covered stomachs to emphasize the lightness of rice cakes.

From [Eater](#)

Unlike the flat disk that gave rise to the planets in our own Solar System, the system's disk consists of three misaligned rings.

From [Popular-Science](#)

It uses technology well, including flat-screen monitors that connect to the Internet and Bluetooth headphones.

From [Fortune](#)

The catch included two tiny species with coiled shells about 1 millimeter across, four midsize species with long, conical or urn-shaped shells of about 7 to 11 millimeters, and one species with a flat shell up to 14 millimeters across.

From [Science News](#)

It combines the functionality of a suitcase and the durability of a duffel, with structured sides and interior pockets for ample gear hauling, a flat-bottom design that enables it to stand, and sturdy, oversize wheels.

From [Outside Online](#)

Luckily enough I have this dedicated flat that is just along from my house that I go to every day.

From [The Daily Beast](#)

There were stomachs, taut and flat, but also undulating bellies, soft and bloated from the breakfast buffet.

From [The Daily Beast](#)

The program—weirdly—is now under the umbrella of ABC News, and is suffering from flat ratings and an aging demographic.

From [The Daily Beast](#)

Another sent back a flat-screen television with a bona fide tombstone within.

From [The Daily Beast](#)

Hitchcock settled in southern California, leaving behind a flat in London and a country house in Shamley Green.

From [The Daily Beast](#)

Why not have sought out the pure white lime-rocks of the flat country, or the grey granite of the hills?

From [Project Gutenberg](#)

Then the roof itself, with its gables and dormer windows, softly folded itself flat down upon the top of the house, out of sight.

From [Project Gutenberg](#)

Instead of writing slander and flat blasphemy, they propose to draw it, and not draw it mild.

From [Project Gutenberg](#)

There is no other way but fresh blood for it is sheer human nature to feel flat after an effort.

From [Project Gutenberg](#)

The hills disappear some miles above this city, and henceforward to the sea all is flat and tame as a marsh.

From [Project Gutenberg](#)



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