

< otherwise



Dictionary

Thesaurus

otherwise

1 of 3

pronoun

oth·er·wise

'ə-thər-, wīz

[Synonyms of otherwise >](#)

: something or anything else : something to the contrary
was ordered to testify and could not do *otherwise*

otherwise

2 of 3

adverb

1 : in a different way or manner

glossed over or *otherwise* handled

— *Playboy*

All shows begin at 8:00 unless *otherwise* noted.

2 : in different circumstances

might *otherwise* have left

The test helps identify problems that might have *otherwise* gone unnoticed.

3 : in [other](#) respects

an *otherwise* flimsy farce

— *Current Biography*

I didn't like the ending, but *otherwise* it was a very good book.

The patient had a foot problem, but she was *otherwise* healthy.



Dictionary

Thesaurus

- 5
- : **NOT** → paired with an adjective, adverb, noun, or verb to indicate its contrary or to suggest an indefinite alternative

people whose deeds, admirable or *otherwise*

— John Fischer

almost thirty thousand women, Irish and *otherwise*

— J. M. Burns

his opinion as to the success or *otherwise* of it

— *Australian Dictionary of Biography*

otherwise

3 of 3

adjective

: **DIFFERENT**

if conditions were *otherwise*

RE

EXPI

*DISCLOS



Adverb



Dictionary

Thesaurus

[See all synonyms & antonyms in thesaurus >](#)

Adverb

All of the books had been burned or *otherwise* destroyed.

The women talked in the living room while the men were *otherwise* occupied.

Art allows us to express things that we would not be able to express *otherwise*.

[See More ▾](#)

Recent Examples on the Web

Adverb

On an *otherwise* flat day in the markets and on our Mobile and Alabama Stock Report, one area stock skipped into the weekend on the heels of a significant gain.

— *al*, 19 Aug. 2023

Other parts were perhaps too revealing: suggesting that the governor attack the entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, who has been gaining on him in the polls but had *otherwise* not been widely seen as a candidate on Mr. DeSantis's level.

— Nicholas Nehamas, *New York Times*, 18 Aug. 2023

[See More ▾](#)

These examples are programmatically compiled from various online sources to illustrate current usage of the word 'otherwise.' Any opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of



Dictionary

Thesaurus



Etymology

Pronoun, Adverb, and Adjective

Middle English, from Old English (*on*) *ōthre wisan* in another manner

First Known Use

Pronoun

15th century, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Adverb

13th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Adjective

14th century, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *otherwise* was in the 13th century



Dictionary

Thesaurus

and otherwise

know different/otherwise

otherwise known as

or otherwise

otherwise engaged

33 Transition Words and Phrases

Trending: Ivanka: "An 'Otherwise'...



Dictionary

Thesaurus

[See more nearby Entries >](#)

Style

MLA

"Otherwise." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/otherwise>. Accessed 1 Sep. 2023.

[Copy Citation](#)

Facebook



Twitter

otherwise adverb

oth·er·wise 'ə-thər-,wīz

1 : in a different way : **DIFFERENTLY**

could not do *otherwise*



Dictionary

Thesaurus

the *otherwise* busy streetEnglish: [Translation of *otherwise* for Spanish Speakers](#)Britannica English: [Translation of *otherwise* for Arabic Speakers](#)

Love words? Need even more definitions?

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

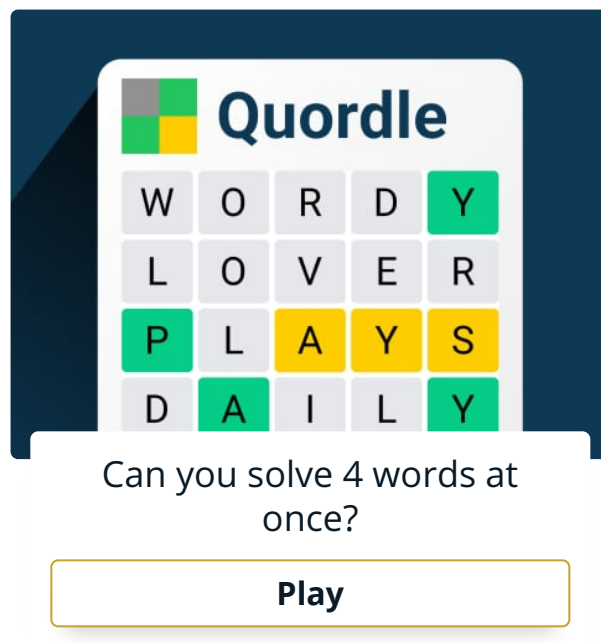
MERRIAM-WEBSTER UNABRIDGED



Dictionary

Thesaurus

*DISCLOSURE

[READ THE REPORT](#)[EXPLORE](#)

WORD OF THE DAY

embargo 

[See Definitions and Examples »](#)

Get Word of the Day daily email!

Your email address

SUBSCRIBE



Dictionary

Thesaurus

What Are You Wearing?

Roll up your sleeves and identify these garments

Take the quiz



Dictionary

Thesaurus

Commonly Confused Words Quiz

Take a (break/brake) and (pore/pour) over this (c...

Take the quiz

Name That Thing



Dictionary

Thesaurus

Take the quiz

Spelling Bee Quiz

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

Take the quiz

Learn a new word every day. Delivered to your inbox!

[Dictionary](#)[Thesaurus](#)[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