

< cover

X

Dictionary

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cover

 1 of 2 verb

cov·er ('kə-vər ▶▶)

covered; covering ('kəv-rɪŋ ▶▶) 'kə-və-[Synonyms of cover >](#)*transitive verb***1 a** : to guard from attack**b (1)** : to have within the range of one's guns : **COMMAND**The ships were *covering* approaches to the harbor.**(2)** : to hold within range of an aimed firearmThe deputy *covered* the sheriff who was apprehending the suspect.**c (1)** : to afford protection or security to : **INSURE**a policy *covering* the traveler in all kinds of accidents**(2)** : to afford protection against or compensation (see **COMPENSATION sense 2**) for a policy *covering* loss by fire**d (1)** : to guard (an opponent) in order to obstruct a playa linebacker assigned to *cover* the tight end**(2)** : to be in position to receive a throw to (a base in baseball)The shortstop was *covering* second.**e (1)** : to make provision for (a demand or charge) by means of a reserve or deposit



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b : to lie over : **ENVELOP**a blanket *covering* her legs**3** : to lay or spread something over : **OVERLAY***Cover* the seedbed with straw.**4 a** : to spread overSnow *covered* the hills.**b** : to appear here and there on the surface ofa region *covered* with lakes**5** : to place or set a cover or **covering** over*Cover* the pot.**6 a** : to copulate with (a female animal)a horse *covers* a mare**b** : to sit on and incubate (eggs)**7** : to invest with a large or excessive amount of something*covered* herself with glory**8** : to play a higher-ranking card on (a previously played card)**9** : to have sufficient scope to include or take into accountan examination *covering* a full year's work**10** : to deal with : **TREAT**material *covered* in the first chapter



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12 : to pass over : **TRAVERSE**

The hikers *covered* 12 miles that day.

13 : to defray the cost of
cover expenses**14** : to place one's stake in equal jeopardy within a bet**15** : to buy securities or commodities for delivery against (an earlier short sale)**16** : to record or perform a cover of (a song)

intransitive verb

1 : to conceal something illicit, blameworthy, or embarrassing from notice → usually used with *up*
cover up for a careless coworker**2** : to act as a substitute or replacement during an absence
a stand-in *covering* for an injured star

'kəv-rə-bəl  **'kə-və-** adjective

'kə-vər-ər  **noun**

cover 2 of 2 **noun**

often attributive

1 : something that protects, shelters, or guards: such as



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2 : something that is placed over or about another thing:

a : **LID**, **TOP**

b : a binding or case for a book or the analogous part of a magazine

also : the front or back of such a binding

c : an overlay or outer layer especially for protection
a mattress *cover*

d : a tablecloth and the other table accessories

e : **COVER CHARGE**

f : **ROOF**

g : a cloth used on a bed for warmth or for decoration → usually used in plural
lying under the *covers*

h : something (such as vegetation or snow) that **covers** the ground

i : the extent to which clouds obscure the sky

3 a : something that conceals or obscures
under *cover* of darkness

b : a masking device : **PRETEXT**
The project was a *cover* for intelligence operations.

4 : an envelope or wrapper for mail

5 : one who substitutes for another during an absence

6 : a recording or performance of a song previously recorded by another performer

(**'kə-vər-ləs** ) **adjective**



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: to deal with a subject or assignment in a particular manner

The new book *covers* a lot of *ground*.

under cover

1 : in an envelope or wrapper

2 : under concealment : in secret

Verb

fill in

stand in

sub

pinch-hit

step in

substitute



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

Verb

The gardener **covered** the soil with mulch.

The furniture had been **covered** in a protective cloth.

We **covered** the stains on the wall with a fresh coat of paint.

[See More ▾](#)

Recent Examples on the Web

Verb

Other photos appeared to show roads **covered** with debris, including trees.

— Marilyn Heck, *ABC News*, 26 Aug. 2024

Wouldn't such an enormous unlocking of water—though this history was hidden as water rose to **cover** it—have affected the level of the oceans as well?

— Brooke Jarvis, *The New Yorker*, 19 Aug. 2024

Noun

For the **cover** of the September 2, 2024, issue, Pascal Campeon endeavored to capture



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

Etymology

Verb and Noun

Middle English, from Anglo-French *coverir*, *covrir*, from Latin *cooperire*, from *co-* + *operire* to close, cover

First Known Use

Verb

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



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[co-venture](#)**cover**[cover address](#)[See More Nearby Entries >](#)**Style**

MLA

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cov·er

'kəv-ər

covered; covering

'kəv-(ə-)rɪŋ

- 1 a** : to guard from attack
- b** : to have within range of one's guns
- c** : to provide protection to or against : **INSURE**
insurance that *covers* the traveler in any accident
the policy *covered* water damage
- d** : to maintain a check on especially by patrolling
state police *covering* the highways
- 2 a** : to hide something from sight or knowledge
cover up a scandal
- b** : to conceal something dishonest or embarrassing from notice
cover for a friend in an investigation
- c** : to act as a substitute or replacement
covered for me during my vacation
- 3 a** : to spread or lie over or on
covered the child with a blanket
water *covered* the floor
- b** : to put something protective or concealing over
cover the mouth while coughing
- 4 a** : to deal with
a test *covering* two chapters
- b** : to provide or plan for



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6 : to pass over or through
covered 10 miles a day

7 : to pay or provide for the payment of
cover expenses

'kəv-(ə-)rə-bəl  **adjective**

-ər-ər **noun**

cover 2 of 2 **noun**

- 1** : something that protects, shelters, or conceals (as a natural shelter for an animal or natural features that shelter or conceal)
- 2 a** : something that is placed over or about another thing (as the lid of a box or a sheet or blanket on a bed)
- b** : a binding or case for a book or the front or back of such a binding
- c** : something (as plants or snow) that covers the ground
- 3** : an envelope or wrapper for mail



Dictionary

Thesaurus

COVER 1 of 2 **transitive verb**

cov·er

1 : **INSURE**this policy *covers* other family drivers**2** : to give protection against or compensation or indemnification for
doesn't *cover* flood damage*intransitive verb*

: to obtain cover

where the seller anticipatorily repudiates a contract and the buyer does not *cover*— *Cosden Oil & Chemical Co. v. Karl O. Helm AG*, 736 F.2d 1064 (1984)**COVER** 2 of 2 **noun**

: purchase of goods in substitution for those originally contracted for when the seller fails to fulfill the contract

the buyer is always free to choose between *cover* and damages for nondelivery— *Uniform Commercial Code**also* : the substituted goods

NOTE: Under the Uniform Commercial Code, when a seller does not perform on a contract, the buyer has the option of covering, with the seller paying the difference between the cost of the cover and the original contract price, or seeking damages for nonperformance. Reselling is the seller's comparable remedy when a buyer does not perform under a contract.



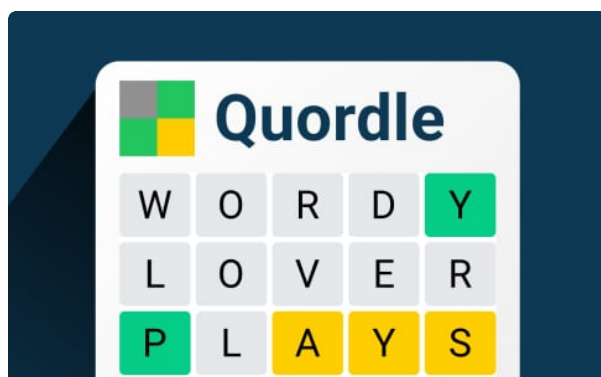
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Quordle

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Play

Blossom Word Game

Pick the best words!

Play



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Missing Letter

A daily crossword with a twist

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Take the quiz

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