



between

preposition 2 ▾

[Example Sentences](#)[Word History](#)[Phrases Containing](#)[Related Articles](#)[Video](#)[Entries Near](#)[Show More ▾](#)[Save Word](#) 

between 1 of 2 preposition

be-tween bi-'twēn bē-[Synonyms of between >](#)

- 1 a** : by the common action of : jointly engaging
shared the work *between* the two of them
talks *between* the three
— *Time*
- b** : in common to : shared by
divided *between* his four grandchildren
- 2 a** : in the time, space, or interval that separates
the alley *between* the butcher shop and the pharmacy
should arrive *between* 9 and 10 o'clock
- b** : in intermediate relation to
weighs somewhere *between* a pound and a pound and a half
- 3 a** : from one to another of
air service *between* Miami and Chicago
- b** : serving to connect or unite in a relationship (such as difference, likeness, or proportion)
a one-to-one correspondence *between* sets
mutual understanding *between* them
- c** : setting apart
the line *between* fact and fancy
- 4 a** : in preference for one or the other of
had no difficulty deciding *between* the two
- b** : in point of comparison of
little difference *between* the two cars
- 5** : in confidence restricted to
a secret *between* you and me
- 6** : taking together the combined effect of
between work and family life, they have no time for hobbies

Between vs. *Among*: Usage Guide

There is a persistent but unfounded notion that *between* can be used only of two items and that *among* must be used for more than two. *Between* has been used of more than two since Old English; it is especially appropriate to denote a one-to-one relationship, regardless of the number of items. It can be used when the number is unspecified

economic cooperation *between* nations

, when more than two are enumerated

between you and me and the lamppost

partitioned *between* Austria, Prussia, and Russia

— Nathaniel Benchley



Ex. 3002
IPR2024-00098



preposition 2 ▾ Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Related Articles Video Entries Near Show More ▾

When *among* is automatically chosen for more than two, English idiom may be strained.

a worthy book that nevertheless falls *among* many stools

— John Simon

the author alternates *among* mod slang, clichés and quotes from literary giants

— A. H. Johnston

between 2 of 2 adverb

: in an intermediate space or interval

two beds with a nightstand *between*



Preposition

The ball rolled *between* the desk and the wall.

He stood *between* his mother and his father.

The office has two desks with a table *between* them.

[See More ▾](#)

Recent Examples on the Web

Preposition

Obviously, the love story *between* Sullivan and Ross is the main storyline between them.

— Max Gao, *Variety*, 3 May 2024

The characters had become more staid, the opportunities fewer and further *between*.

— Robinne Lee, *TIME*, 2 May 2024

[See all Example Sentences for *between* >](#)

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



preposition 2 ▾

Example Sentences

Word History

Phrases Containing

Related Articles

Video

Entries Near

Show More ▾

Etymology

Preposition and Adverb

Middle English *betwene*, preposition & adverb, from Old English *betwēonum*, from *be-* + *-twēonum* (dative plural) (akin to Goth *tweihnai* two each); akin to Old English *twā* two

First Known Use

Preposition

before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

Adverb

before the 12th century, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *between* was before the 12th century

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

- [between a rock and a hard place](#)
- [between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)
- [between the rock and the hard place](#)
- [betwixt and between](#)
- [daylight between](#)
- [draw/make an analogy between](#)
- [between Scylla and Charybdis](#)
- [between the lines](#)
- [between you and me](#)
- [come between](#)
- [decide between](#)
- [draw parallels between](#)

[See More ▾](#)





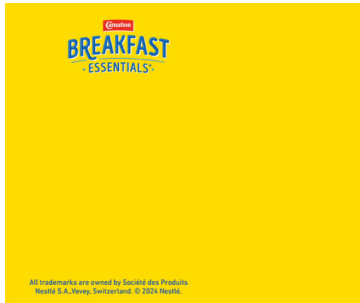
preposition 2 ▾ Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Related Articles Video Entries Near Show More ▾



'Between' or 'Among': Which is correct?



The In-Betweens: 7 Words From the Middle



Between you
and?



preposition 2 ▾ Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Related Articles Video Entries Near Show More ▾

betwattled

between

between decks

[See More Nearby Entries >](#)

Style

"Between." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/between>. Accessed 13 May. 2024.

[Copy Citation](#)



Facebook



Twitter

between 1 of 2 preposition

be·tween (bi-'twēn «)»

- 1** : by the common action of
ate six pizzas *between* them
- 2** : in the time or space that separates
between nine and ten o'clock
between the desk and the wall
- 3 a** : from one to the other of
flying *between* Miami and Chicago
b : joining or linking in some relationship
the bond *between* friends
the difference *between* soccer and football
- 4** : in comparison of
there's not much to choose *between* the two coats
- 5** : staying known by only certain people
a secret *between* you and me



preposition 2 ▾

Example Sentences

Word History

Phrases Containing

Related Articles

Video

Entries Near

Show More ▾

Ad removed.
[Show details](#)

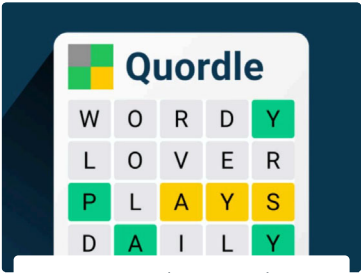
Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for *between*](#)
Nglish: [Translation of *between* for Spanish Speakers](#)
Britannica English: [Translation of *between* for Arabic Speakers](#)

Last Updated: 5 May 2024 - 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





preposition 2 ▾ Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Related Articles Video Entries Near Show More ▾

WORD OF THE DAY

instigate 

[See Definitions and Examples »](#)

Get Word of the Day daily email!

Your email address

More Commonly Misspelled Words

Your vs. You're: How to Use Them Correctly

Every Letter Is Silent, Sometimes: A-Z List of Examples

More Commonly Mispronounced Words

How to Use Em Dashes (—), En Dashes (–) , and Hyphens (-)

[See All](#)

The Words of the Week - May 10



preposition 2 ▾ Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Related Articles Video Entries Near Show More ▾

10 Scrabble Words Without Any Vowels

8 Uncommon Words Related to Love

9 Superb Owl Words

See All

Quordle

Can you solve 4 words at once?

Play

Blossom Word Game

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

Play



preposition 2 ▾ Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Related Articles Video Entries Near Show More ▾

Play

Take the quiz

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

Your email address

SUBSCRIBE

[Help](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertising Info](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Diversity](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)

© 2024 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated