

New Oxford American Dictionary

Second Edition

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The New Oxford American Dictionary

SECOND EDITION

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2 (usu. **slicks**) a race car or bicycle tire without a tread, for use in dry weather conditions. **3** *informal* a glossy magazine.

v. **1** [*trans.*] make (one's hair) flat, smooth, and glossy by applying water, oil, or cream to it: his damp hair was slicked back | [*as adj. in combination*] (**slicked**) his slicked-down hair. **2** [*sluck someone/something up*] make someone or something smart, tidy, or stylish. **3** Middle English (in the senses 'glossy' and 'make smooth or glossy'): probably from Old English and related to Old Norse *slíkr* 'smooth'; compare with **SLEEK**. —**slick-ly** *adv.* —**slick-ness** *n.*

slick-en-side /'sli:ken,saɪd/ **n.** (usu. **slickensides**) Geology a polished and striated rock surface that results from friction along a fault or bedding plane. **3** mid 18th cent.: from a dialect variant of the adjective **SLICK** + **SIDE**.

slicker /'sli:kə/ **n.** **1** *informal* a crook or swindler. **2** short for **CITY SLICKER**. **3** a raincoat made of smooth material.

slide /slɪd/ **v.** (*past* **sld** /sld/) [*intrans.*] move along a smooth surface while maintaining continuous contact with it: she slid down the bank into the water | [*as adj.*] (**sliding**) the tank should have a sliding glass cover. [*trans.*] move (something) along a surface in such a way: she slid the keys over the table. **2** move smoothly, quickly, or unobtrusively: I quickly slid into a seat at the back of the hall. [*trans.*] move (something) in such a way: she slid the bottle into her pocket. **3** change gradually to a worse condition or lower level: the country faces the prospect of sliding from recession into slump.

n. **1** a structure with a smooth sloping surface for children to slide down. **2** a smooth stretch or slope of ice or packed snow for sledding on. **3** an act of moving along a smooth surface while maintaining continuous contact with it: use an ice ax to halt a slide on ice and snow. **4** Baseball a sliding approach to a base along the ground. **5** a decline in value or quality: the current slide in house prices. **6** a part of a machine or musical instrument that slides. **7** the place on a machine or instrument where a sliding part operates. **8** slide guitar: I'd been playing slide for years. **9** (also **microscope slide**) a rectangular piece of glass on which an object is mounted or placed for examination under a microscope. **10** a mounted transparency, typically one placed in a projector for viewing on a screen: [*as adj.*] a slide show. **11** Old English *slidan* (verb); related to **SLED** and **SLEDGE**. The noun, first in the sense 'act of sliding,' is recorded from the late 16th cent. —**slid-able** *adj.*

PHRASE **□** let something slide negligently allow something to deteriorate: Papa had let the business slide after Mama's death.

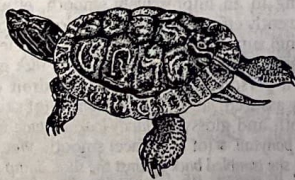
slide fast-ener **n.** a dated zipper.

slide guitar **n.** a style of guitar playing in which a glissando effect is produced by moving a bottleneck or similar device over the strings, used esp. in blues.

Slidell /sli'del/ a city in southeastern Louisiana, northeast of New Orleans; pop. 25,695.

slide projector **n.** a piece of equipment used for displaying photographic slides on a screen.

slider /'slɪdə/ **n.** **1** a North American freshwater turtle with a red or yellow patch on the side of the head. • Genus *Trachemys* (or *Pseudemys*), family Emydidae: several species, in particular the **red-eared** (or **pond**) **slider** (*T. scripta*). **2** Baseball a pitch that moves laterally as it nears home plate. **3** (usu. **sliders**) a sliding door, esp. one with a glass panel. **4** Electronics a knob or lever that is moved horizontally or vertically to control a variable, such as the volume of a radio. **5** Computing an icon mimicking such a knob or lever.



slider 1

slide rule **n.** a ruler with a sliding central strip, marked with logarithmic scales and used for making rapid calculations, esp. multiplication and division.

slide show **n.** a presentation supplemented by or based on a series of projected photographic slides.

slide valve **n.** a piece that opens and closes an aperture by sliding across it.

sliding door **n.** a door drawn across an aperture on a groove or suspended from a track, rather than turning on hinges.

sliding scale **n.** a scale of fees, taxes, wages, etc., that varies in accordance with variation of some standard.

sliding seat **n.** a seat able to slide back and forth on runners, esp. one in a racing rowboat used to adjust the length of a stroke.

slight /sli:t/ **adj.** **1** small in degree; inconsiderable: a slight increase | [*a slight ankle injury*] the chance of success is very slight. **2** (esp. of a creative work) not profound or substantial; somewhat trivial or superficial: a slight plot. **3** (of a person or their build) not sturdy and strongly built: she was slight and delicate-looking. **v.** [*trans.*] **1** insult (someone) by treating or speaking of them without proper respect or attention: he was careful not to slight a guest | [*as adj.*] (**slighting**) slighting references to Irish Catholics. See note at **NEGLECT**. **2** archaic raze or destroy (a fortification).

n. an insult caused by a failure to show someone proper respect or attention: an unintended slight can create grudges | he was seething at the slight to his authority. **3** Middle English; the adjective from Old Norse *sléttir* 'smooth' (an early sense in English), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *slachts* 'merely' and German *schlicht* 'simple', *schlecht* 'bad'; the verb (originally in the sense 'make smooth or level'), from Old Norse *slétta*. The sense 'treat with disrespect' dates from the late 16th cent. —**slight-ly** *adv.* —**slight-ish** *adj.* —**slight-ness** *n.*

PHRASES **□** not in the slightest not at all: he didn't mind in the slightest. **□** the slightest — [*usu. with negative*] any — whatsoever: I don't have the slightest idea.

slight-ly /'sli:tli/ **adv.** **1** to a small degree; inconsiderably: he lowered his voice slightly | [*as submodifier*] they are all slightly different. **2** [with reference to a person's build] in a slender way: a slightly built girl.

Sligo /'slɪɡə/ a county in the Republic of Ireland, in the western part of the province of Connacht. **2** its county town, a seaport on Sligo Bay, an inlet of the Atlantic Ocean; pop. 17,000.

slily **adv.** variant spelling of **SLYLY** (see **SLY**).

slim /slɪm/ **adj.** (**slim-mer**, **slim-mest**) **1** (of a person or their build) gracefully thin; slenderly built (used approvingly): her slim figure | the girls were tall and slim. **2** (of a thing) small in width and typically long and narrow in shape: a slim gold band encircled her wrist. **3** (of a garment) cut on slender lines; designed to make the wearer appear slim: a pair of slim, immaculately cut slacks. **4** (of a business or other organization) reduced to a smaller size in the hope that it will become more efficient. **5** (of something abstract, esp. a chance or margin) very small: there was just a slim chance of success | the evidence is slim.

v. (**slimmed**, **slim-ming**) [*intrans.*] make oneself thinner by dieting and sometimes exercising: I need to slim down a bit | [*as n.*] (**slimming**) an aid to slimming. [*trans.*] make (a person or a bodily part) thinner in such a way: how can I slim down my hips? [*trans.*] reduce (a business or other organization) to a smaller size in the hope of making it more efficient: restructuring and slimming down the organization.

n. (also **slim disease**) African term for **AIDS**. **2** mid 17th cent.: from Low German or Dutch (from a base meaning 'slanting, cross, bad'), of Germanic origin. The pejorative sense found in Dutch and German existed originally in the English noun *slim* 'lazy or worthless person'. —**slim-ly** *adv.* —**slim-ness** *n.*

slime /slɪm/ **n.** a moist, soft, and slippery substance, typically regarded as repulsive: the cold stone was wet with slime. **2** *informal* a slimeball.

v. [*trans.*] cover with slime: what grass remained was slimed over with pale brown mud. **3** Old English *slīm*, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *slim* and German *Schleim* 'mucus, slime', Latin *limus* 'mud', and Greek *limnē* 'marsh'.

slime-ball /'slɪm,bɔ:l/ **n.** *informal* a repulsive or despicable person.

slime mold **n.** a simple organism that consists of an acellular mass of creeping jellylike protoplasm containing nuclei, or a mass of ameboid cells. When it reaches a certain size it forms a large number of spore cases. • Division *Myxomycota*, kingdom *Fungi*, in particular the class *Myxomycetes*; also treated as protozoan (phylum *Gymnomyxa*, kingdom *Protista*).

slim jim **n.** *informal* a very slim person or thing, in particular: **1** (**slim jims**) a pair of long narrow trousers. **2** (also **Slim Jim**) (*trademark*) a long thin variety of smoked sausage. **3** a long flexible metal strip with a hooked end, used by car thieves and others for entering a locked vehicle.

slim-line /'slɪm,li:n/ **adj.** (of a person or article) slender in design or build: a slimline phone.

slim volume **n.** a book, typically of verse, by a little-known author.

slimy /'slɪmə/ **adj.** (**slim-ier**, **slim-iest**) covered by or having the feel or consistency of slime: the thick, slimy mud | the walls were slimy with lichens. **2** *informal* disgustingly immoral, dishonest, or obsequious: he was a slimy people-pleaser. —**slim-ly** /-məli/ *adv.* —**slim-iness** *n.*

sling /slɪŋɡ/ **n.** **1** a flexible strap or belt used in the form of a loop to support or raise a weight: the horse had to be supported by a sling fixed to the roof. **2** a bandage or soft strap looped around the neck to support an injured arm: she had her arm in a sling. **3** a pouch or frame for carrying a baby, supported by a strap around the neck or shoulders. **4** a short length of rope used to provide additional support for the body in rappelling or climbing. **5** a simple weapon in the form of a strap or loop, used to hurl stones or other small missiles.

v. (*past* **slung** /slɒŋɡ/) **1** [*trans.*] suspend or arrange (something), esp. with a strap or straps, so that it hangs loosely in a particular position: a hammock was slung between two trees. **2** [*trans.*] carry (something, esp. a garment) loosely and casually: he had his jacket slung over one shoulder. **3** [*trans.*] *informal* throw; fling (often used to express the speaker's casual attitude): sling a few things into your knapsack. **4** hurl (a stone or other missile) from a sling or similar weapon. **5** hoist or transfer (something) with a sling: horse after horse was slung up from the barges. **6** Middle English; probably from Low German, of symbolic origin; compare with German *Schlinge* 'noose, snare.' Sense 2 of the verb is from Old Norse *slýngva*. —**slinger** *n.*

PHRASES **□** put someone's (or have one's) ass in a sling *vulgar slang* cause someone to be (or be) in trouble. **□** sling hash *informal* serve food in a cafe or diner. **□** slings and arrows used with reference to adverse factors or circumstances: the slings and arrows of outrageous critics. [with reference to Shakespeare's *Hamlet* III. i. 58.]

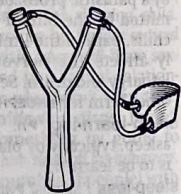
sling **n.** a sweetened drink of liquor, esp. gin, and water. See also **SINGAPORE SLING**. **2** mid 18th cent.: of unknown origin. **slingshot** (also **slings-back**) **n.** a shoe held in place by a strap around the back of the ankle: [*as adj.*] a pair of red slingshot pumps.



slings-back

sling-shot /'slɪŋɡ,ʃɒt/ **n.** a forked stick, to which an elastic strap (or a pair of elastic bands connected by a small sling) is fastened to the two prongs, typically used for shooting small stones. **2** [often *as adj.*] the effect of the gravitational pull of a celestial body in accelerating and changing the course of another body or a spacecraft.

v. (**-shotting**; *past* and *past part.* **-shot** or **-shot-ted**) forcefully accelerate or cause to accelerate through use of gravity: [*intrans.*] the car would hit the first dip, then slingshot off the second rise | [*trans.*] Jupiter's gravity slingshots the fragments toward Earth.



slingshot

slink /slɪŋk/ **v.** (*past* **slunk** /slɒŋk/) [*intrans.*] move smoothly and quietly with gliding steps, in a stealthy or sensuous manner: the fox came slinking through the woods. **2** come or go unobtrusively or furtively: all his so-called friends have slunk off.

n. [*in sing.*] an act of moving in this way: she moved with a sensuous slink. **3** Old English *slincan* 'crawl, creep'; compare with Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *slinken* 'subside, sink'.

slinky /'slɪŋki/ **adj.** (**slink-ier**, **slink-iest**) *informal* graceful and sinuous in movement, line, or figure: a slinky black evening dress.

n. (**Slinky**) *trademark* a toy consisting of a flexible helical spring that can be made to somersault down steps. —**slink-ily** /'slɪŋkəli/ *adv.* —**slink-iness** *n.* **slip** /slɪp/ **v.** (**slipped**, **slipping**) **1** [*intrans.*] (of a