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Merriam-Webster
SINCE 1828
An Encyclopædia Britannica Company

handheld 

adjective | hand-held | \-held, -held\

Simple Definition of HANDHELD

: designed to be used while being held in your hands

Source: Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary

Full Definition of HANDHELD

: held in the hand; *especially* : designed to be operated while being held in the hand <handheld computers>

—handheld \-held\ noun

See **handheld** defined for English-language learners

See **handheld** defined for kids

First Known Use of HANDHELD

1923

Rhymes with HANDHELD

butt weld, danegeld, Rumsfeld

Learn More about HANDHELD

Spanish Central: Translation of *handheld*

Nglish: Translation of *handheld* for Spanish speakers

Seen and Heard

What made you want to look up *handheld*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

WORD OF THE DAY

vestige 

a trace or visible sign that remains

Get Word of the Day daily email!

Your email address **SUBSCRIBE**

TRENDING NOW

- winningest**
Yes, winningest is a real word
- sarcasm, sarcastic**
From 'sarkazein', "to tear flesh li...
- Rubicon**
The die is cast
- stochastic**
"To incite random actors to carry...
- abdicate**
Japan's emperor is ready to step ...

SEE ALL >

BROWSE DICTIONARY

handily 

hand in

hand in glove

hand in hand

handiron 

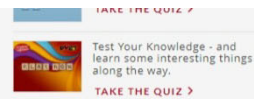
WORD GAMES

Take a 3-minute break and test your skills!

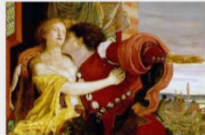
 Which of the following is the earliest known sense of the word *owe*?

SPELL

Can you spell these 10 commonly misspelled words?



WORDS AT PLAY



What Does 'Wherefore Art Thou Romeo' Mean?

Not where, but why



How Journalists Are Redefining the Word 'Kicker'

The term's meaning has shifted



10 Words for People Who Are Bad At What They Do

Don't quit your day job



Censor vs. Censure

What the [bleep] is the difference?

ASK THE EDITORS



How Often Is 'Biweekly'?

Don't get us started on 'bimonthly'



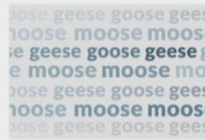
Malaprop

We'll tell you all the perpendiculars



Irregardless

It is in fact a real word (but that doesn't mean you shou ...



Weird Plurals

One goose, two geese. One moose, two... moose. What ...

WORD GAMES



Original Meanings Quiz

A quiz for the pedantic and those annoyed by them!

[TAKE THE QUIZ >](#)



Trend Watch Quiz: Empathy Edition

Headline news vs. the dictionary

[TAKE THE QUIZ >](#)



Spell It

Can you spell these 10 commonly misspelled words?

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