distinct

distinct

adjective

s·tinct di-ˈstiŋ(k)t How to pronounce distinct (audio)

Synonyms of *distinct* next

1

: distinguishable to the eye or mind as being discrete (see DISCRETE sense 1) or not the same : SEPARATE

a *distinct* cultural group

teaching as *distinct* from research

2

: presenting a clear unmistakable impression

a neat *distinct* handwriting

3

archaic : notably decorated

4

a

: NOTABLE

a *distinct* contribution to scholarship

b

the *distinct* odor of sulfur

distinctly

di-ˈstiŋ(k)-tlē How to pronounce distinct (audio)

-ˈstiŋ-klē

Edwards v. Aortic Innovations
U.S. Patent 11,497,634
Edwards Ex. 1130

adverb

distinctness

di-ˈstiŋ(k)t-nəs How to pronounce distinct (audio)

-ˈstiŋk-nəs

noun

Synonyms

different

disparate

dissimilar

distant

distinctive

distinguishable

diverse

nonidentical

other

unalike

unlike

See all Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus

Choose the Right Synonym for *distinct*

DISTINCT, SEPARATE, DISCRETE mean not being each and every one the same.

DISTINCT indicates that something is distinguished by the mind or eye as being apart or different from others.

two *distinct* versions

SEPARATE often stresses lack of connection or a difference in identity between two things.

separate rooms

DISCRETE strongly emphasizes individuality and lack of connection.

broke the job down into *discrete* stages

synonyms see in addition EVIDENT

Example Sentences

There are three *distinct* categories.

Each herb has its own *distinct* flavor.

The phrase has three *distinct* meanings.

There was the *distinct* smell of something burning.

See More

Recent Examples on the Web

This function seemed *distinct* from imagination until Frank and his colleagues showed that the activity of these cells does not always represent an animal's actual location.

Ingrid Wickelgren, *Scientific American*, 8 June 2023

The league accrued some athletic successes, even as its players faced the risk of eventual exclusion from golf's major tournaments, which are run by organizations that are close to, but *distinct* from, the PGA Tour.

Alan Blinder, *New York Times*, 6 June 2023

But that device and the applications for it that Xi described in his emails were *distinct* from the pocket heater, according to Xi's lawsuit.

Daniel Wu, *Washington Post*, 6 June 2023

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

Word History

Etymology

Middle English, from Latin *distinctus*, from past participle of *distinguere* — see DISTINGUISH

First Known Use

14th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1

Time Traveler

The first known use of *distinct* was in the 14th century

See more words from the same century

Phrases Containing *distinct*

as distinct from

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Kids Definition

distinct

adjective

dis·tinct dis-ˈtiŋ(k)t How to pronounce distinct (audio)

1

: real and different from each other

five *distinct* varieties

pears as *distinct* from apples

2

: clearly seen, heard, or understood **:** PLAIN, UNMISTAKABLE

speaks with a *distinct* accent

a *distinct* possibility

3

: NOTABLE

made a *distinct* contribution to science

- **distinctly** adverb
- **distinctness** noun

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Nglish: Translation of *distinct* for Spanish Speakers
Britannica English: Translation of *distinct* for Arabic Speakers

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When 'thingamajig' and 'thingamabob' just won't do

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Look up any year to find out

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A simple way to keep them apart. (Most of the time.)

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And who put it there, anyway?

'Everyday' vs. 'Every Day'

A simple trick to keep them separate

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