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**period** **[TIME]** /ˈpɪr-i-əd/ *n* [C] a length of time  
• *The study will be carried out over a six-month period.* • A period in the life of a person or in history is a particular time during that life or history: *The period after World War II was marked by rapid economic growth.* • A period is a division of time in an event of fixed length, such as a day at school or a game: *There was no scoring in the second period.* • Period costume/dress/furniture is the clothing or furniture of a particular time in history: *At the Revolutionary War theme park, everyone was wearing period costumes.*

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**periodic** /ˈpɪr-i-əd-ɪk/, **periodical** /ˈpɪr-i-əd-ɪ-kəl/ *adj* [not gradable] happening repeatedly although not necessarily frequently • *He suffers periodic mental breakdowns.*

**periodically** /ˈpɪr-i-əd-ɪ-kli/ *adv* [not gradable] • *The equipment should be tested periodically (= repeatedly at regular times).*

**period** **[BLEEDING]** /ˈpɪr-i-əd/, **menstrual period** /ˈmen-strəl, pɪr-i-əd, -strə-wəl/ *n* [C] the bleeding from a woman's uterus that happens approximately every four weeks when she is not pregnant

**period** **[MARK]** /ˈpɪr-i-əd/ *n* [C] a mark (.) used in writing to show where the end of a sentence

### PERIOD [.]

A **period** (sometimes called a *point* or a *dot*) is used to end sentences and phrases that are not questions.

*I'll meet you at the theater entrance. • Of course. • If necessary.*

Notice that a comma (,) can mark the end of a sentence when it is in quotation marks and forms part of another sentence.

*"I think this bag is yours," she said.*

A period is also used after abbreviations and initials.

*no. (= number) • Feb. 17 • U.S.A. • an H.M.O. • e.g. • Dr. Wong • Mrs. Albino • H.G. Wells*

Periods are used after numbers and letters in lists and outlines.

*name your choices:*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Periods are used as the decimal point in numbers and money amounts.

*6.75 miles* (said as "six point seven five") • *\$8.50* ("eight dollars and fifty cents" or "eight fifty")

Periods form part of e-mail and Web site addresses.

Contact us at [dictionaries@cup.org](mailto:dictionaries@cup.org) ("dictionaries at c u p dot org")

A period is not used in American English to separate long numbers. Use a comma instead.

*The city has a population of 4,500,000.*

is, or to show that the letters before it are an abbreviation • (*informal*) You can say period at the end of a statement as way of adding emphasis: *There will be no more shouting, period!*

**periodical** /ˈpɪr-i-əd-ɪ-kəl/ *n* [C] a magazine that is published regularly • *The library subscribes to a number of periodicals dealing with the arts and sciences.*

**periphery** /ˈpɛr-ɪ-f-ə-ri/ *n* [C usually sing] the outer edge of an area • *We've planted 50 small trees around the periphery of the property.*

**peripheral** /ˈpɛr-ɪ-f-ə-rəl/ *adj* not central or of main importance • *First of all, we had to find out who the thief was—getting the money back was a peripheral issue.* • **Peripheral vision** is what you can see to the sides of what you are looking at.

**peripheral** /ˈpɛr-ɪ-f-ə-rəl/ *n* [C] a piece of equipment, such as a printer, that can be connected to a computer

**periscope** /ˈpɛr-ə-skəʊp/ *n* [C] a vertical tube containing mirrors that can give you a view of what is above you when you look through the bottom of the tube • *The periscope of the submarine was visible just above the surface of the water.*

**perish** /ˈpɛr-ɪʃ/ *v* [I] to die, esp. as a result of an accident, violence, or war • *Without this assistance, thousands of refugees would perish from hunger and neglect.*

**perishable** /ˈpɛr-ɪ-ʃə-bəl/ *adj* • Food that is perishable has to be used quickly or it will decay so that you cannot eat it: *He owns one of the largest distributors of perishable foods.*

**perjury** /ˈpɛr-dʒə-ri/ *n* [U] law the crime of telling a lie in court after promising formally to tell the truth

**perjure** /ˈpɛr-dʒər/ *v* [T] law • *Perjuring yourself (= Telling a lie in court) is a criminal offense.*

**perk** **[ADVANTAGE]** /pɜːrk/ *n* [C] *informal* a special advantage or benefit, in addition to the money you are paid, that you are given because of your job • *Free child care for preschool children of employees was a popular perk.*

**perk** **[MAKE COFFEE]** /pɜːrk/ *v* [I/T] (of boiling water or coffee) to move up a tube in a PERCOLATOR (= a type of coffee maker) when the coffee is being made • *The coffee had begun to perk.* [I]

**perk up** (*obj*), **perk** (*obj*) **up** /ˈ-/-/ *v* *adv* [I/M] (of a thing) to make or become more interesting or exciting, or (of a person) to make or become more active or energetic, or happier • *The city is trying to perk up the business district by planting trees.* [M] • *She perked up considerably when her sister arrived.* [I]

**perky** /ˈpɛr-ki/ *adj* showing a lot of energy in a happy, confident way • *Kimberly burst in with a crowd of perky teenagers.*

**perm** /pɜːrm/, **permanent** (**wave**) /ˈpɜːr-mə-nənt ('weɪv)/ *n* [C] a chemical process that makes a person's hair wavy or curly

**perm** /pɜːrm/ *v* [T] • *Tiffany got her hair permed.*

**permanent** /ˈpɜːr-mə-nənt/ *adj* [not gradable] lasting for a long time or forever • *Are you looking for a temporary job or something permanent?* • *He entered the United States in 1988 as a permanent resident with a green card.*

**permanently** /ˈpɜːr-mə-nənt-li/ *adv* [not gradable] • *The accident left him permanently paralyzed.*

**permanence** /ˈpɜːr-mə-nəns/ *n* [U]

**permeate** /ˈpɜːr-mi-ˌeɪt/ *v* [T] to spread through (something) and be present in every part of it • *The smell of detergent and bleach permeated the air.*

**permission** /pɜːr-mɪʃ-ən/ *n* [U] the act of allowing someone to do something, or of allowing something to happen • *Parents have to give their permission for their children to go on school trips.* • *We had to get permission (= approval) from the city to build an extension to our house.* [+ to infinitive]

**permissible** /pɜːr-mɪs-ə-bəl/ *adj* • *It is no longer permissible for athletic programs in universities to give a lot more money for men's sports than for women's sports.*

**permissive** /pɜːr-mɪs-ɪv/ *adj* esp. disapproving allowing a wide range of choices, esp. in an area where there have traditionally been rules that had to be obeyed • *In the 1960s, many Americans became more permissive about sexual behavior.*

**permissiveness** /pɜːr-mɪs-ɪv-nəs/ *n* [U]

**permit** /pɜːr-mɪt/ *v* [T] **-tt-** to allow (something), or make (something) possible • *Smoking is not permitted in any part of this building.*

**permit** /ˈpɜːr-mɪt, pɜːr-mɪt/ *n* [C] an official document that allows you to do something • *Do you have a permit to park here?*

**permitting** /pɜːr-mɪt-ɪŋ/ *adj* [only after *n*] used to show that an activity depends on an uncertain condition • *Weather permitting (= if the weather is good enough), the picnic will be next Saturday.*

**pernicious** /pɜːr-nɪʃ-əs/ *adj* having a very harmful effect or influence • *The book focuses on the pernicious effects of slavery.*

**peroxide** /pɜːr-ɒk-saɪd/ *n* [U] hydrogen peroxide, see at HYDROGEN

**perpendicular** /ˌpɜːr-pən-dɪk-jə-lər/ *adj* [not gradable] standing straight up, or being at an angle of 90° to another line or surface • *The cliff was nearly perpendicular and impossible to climb.* • *Two perpendicular lines form a right angle.*

**perpetrate** /ˈpɜːr-pə-treɪt/ *v* [T] to commit (a crime or other harmful act) • *Deadly terrorist attacks have been perpetrated by extremists.*

**perpetrator** /ˈpɜːr-pə-treɪt-ər/ *n* [C] • *He promised vigorous action against the perpetrators of this crime.*

**perpetual** /pɜːr-pet-ʃ-ə-wəl/ *adj* [not gradable]