



adjective 2 ✓

Did you know?



Synonyms

Synonym Chooser

Example Sentences

eccentric

 1 of 2 adjective

ec·cen·tric (ik-'sen-trik ◀▶) ek-

[Synonyms of eccentric >](#)

1 a : deviating from conventional or accepted usage or conduct especially in odd or whimsical ways

an *eccentric* millionaire

b : [deviating](#) from an established or usual pattern or style

eccentric products

2 a : deviating from a circular path

especially : **ELLIPTICAL sense 1**

an *eccentric* orbit

b : located elsewhere than at the [geometric](#) center

also : having the axis or support so located

an *eccentric* wheel

(ik-'sen-tri-k(ə-)lē ▶▶) ek- adverb

eccentric

 2 of 2 noun

1 : a person who behaves in odd or unusual ways : an eccentric person

2 : a mechanical device consisting of an eccentric (see [ECCENTRIC entry 1 sense 2b](#)) disk communicating its motion to a rod so as to produce reciprocating motion



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Example Sentences

and ultimately has its root in a Greek word with various meanings including “stationary point of a pair of compasses” and “midpoint of a circle or sphere.” But its figurative use is long-established too: as far back as the 17th century the word was used to describe people and things that deviate from what is conventional, usual, or accepted.

Adjective

bizarre

bizarro

cranky

crazy

curious

erratic

far-out

funky

funny

kinky

kooky

kookie

odd

off-kilter

off-the-wall

offbeat

out-of-the-way

outlandish

outré

peculiar

quaint

queer

queerish

quirky

remarkable

rum [*chiefly British*]

screwy

spaced-out

strange

wacky

whacky

way-out

weird

weirdo

wild

adjective 2 ▼

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Example Sentences

crackpot

flake

head case

nut

nutter [*British slang*]

oddity

quiz

weirdo

crank

fruitcake

kook

nutcase

oddball

original

screwball

zany

[See All Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus](#)

Choose the Right Synonym for *eccentric*

STRANGE, SINGULAR, UNIQUE, PECULIAR, ECCENTRIC, ERRATIC, ODD, QUIANT, OUTLANDISH mean departing from what is ordinary, usual, or to be expected.

STRANGE stresses unfamiliarity and may apply to the foreign, the unnatural, the unaccountable.

a journey filled with *strange* sights

SINGULAR suggests individuality or puzzling strangeness.

a *singular* feeling of impending disaster

UNIQUE implies singularity and the fact of being without a known parallel.

a career *unique* in the annals of science

PECULIAR implies a marked distinctiveness.

the *peculiar* status of America's First Lady

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Example Sentences

ERRATIC stresses a capricious and unpredictable wandering or deviating.a friend's suddenly *erratic* behavior**ODD** applies to a departure from the regular or expected.an *odd* sense of humor**QUAINT** suggests an old-fashioned but pleasant oddness.a *quaint* fishing village**OUTLANDISH** applies to what is uncouth, bizarre, or barbaric.*outlandish* fashions of the time

Adjective

It was Charles Darwin's **eccentric** mathematician cousin Francis Galton who in 1874 ignited the nature-nurture controversy. ...

— Matt Ridley, *Time*, 2 June 2003

Eccentric drifters that normally roam the farthest reaches of the solar system, these daredevils fly so close to the Sun that they pass through its scorching corona.

— Maggie McKee, *Astronomy*, December 2002

In the spit-and-polish Navy, he and his equally unkempt colleagues were regarded as **eccentric**.

— David M. Kennedy, *Atlantic*, March 1999

[See More](#) ✓

Recent Examples on the Web

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Example Sentences

alone on a remote island and dreams of reuniting his favorite musicians, McGwyer Mortimer, a duo played by Basden and Promising Young Woman's Carey Mulligan, for a private show.

— Simon Thompson, *Forbes.com*, 28 Mar. 2025

He's invited her along on a business trip, to the wilderness retreat of **eccentric** zillionaire Odell (Richard E. Grant), the head of a hugely lucrative pharmaceuticals company.

— Stephanie Zacharek, *Time*, 28 Mar. 2025

Noun

Rachel does a great job conveying such collective endeavors and group dreaming, the whole circumference of people who support bands: friends of friends, drop-of-a-hat designers, stopgap agents, stall owners, dealers, grandparents with record collections, **eccentrics** without portfolios.

— Ian Penman, *Harper's Magazine*, 19 Feb. 2025

Would love to know what these career **eccentrics** make of the pomp and pageantry of the Grammys.

— August Brown, *Los Angeles Times*, 3 Feb. 2025

[See All Example Sentences for *eccentric*](#)

Etymology

Adjective

borrowed from Medieval Latin *eccentricus*, *excentricus* "not concentric with another circle, (of a planetary orbit in Ptolemaic astronomy) not having the earth exactly at its center," from Late Latin *eccentros*, *eccentrus* "not having the earth at its center"



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Noun

Middle English *excentryke* "planetary orbit of which the earth is not the center," borrowed from Medieval Latin *excentricus*, noun derivative of *eccentricus*, *eccentricus* "(of a planetary orbit in Ptolemaic astronomy) not having the earth exactly at its center" — more at [ECCENTRIC entry 1](#)

First Known Use

Adjective

1642, in the meaning defined at [sense 2a](#)

Noun

1827, in the meaning defined at [sense 2](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *eccentric* was in 1642

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

[concentric](#)

[excentric](#)

[afrocentric](#)

[egocentric](#)

[ethnocentric](#)

[eurocentric](#)

[geocentric](#)

[metacentric](#)

[multicentric](#)

[polycentric](#)

[anthropocentric](#)

[heliocentric](#)



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Example Senten

ecce homo

eccentric

eccentrical

[See All Nearby Words](#)

eccentric



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Style

MLA

"Eccentric." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/eccentric>. Accessed 4 Apr. 2025.

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eccentric 1 of 2 adjective

ec·cen·tric ik-'sen-trik ek-

1 a : acting or thinking in an unusual way

b : not of the usual or normal kind

2 : not following a truly circular path
an *eccentric* orbit

-tri-k(ə-)lē adverb

eccentric 2 of 2 noun



eccentric

 1 of 2 adjectiveec·cen·tric ik-'sen-trik, ek- 

: deviating from an established pattern or from accepted usage or conduct

-tri-k(ə-)lē  adverb

eccentric

 2 of 2 noun

: an eccentric individual

English: [Translation of *eccentric* for Spanish Speakers](#)

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Example Sentences



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Example Senten

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

What do SCOTUS, POTUS, and FLOTUS mean?

Top 10 Sophisticated Insults

Quordle

Can you solve 4 words at once?

Play

Blossom Word Game

Pick the best words!

Play



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Example Sentences

Missing Letter

A daily crossword with a twist

Play

Name That Bird Quiz

Are you as wise as an owl or just another birdbrain?

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