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valve noun

'valv •

Synonyms of *valve*

- a** : any of numerous mechanical devices by which the flow of liquid, gas, or loose material in bulk may be started, stopped, or regulated by a movable part that opens, shuts, or partially obstructs one or more ports or passageways
also : the movable part of such a device
- b** : a device in a brass instrument for quickly channeling air flow through an added length of tube in order to change the fundamental tone by some definite interval
- c** chiefly British : **ELECTRON TUBE**
- [borrowed from Medieval Latin *valva*, going back to Latin] : a bodily structure (such as the mitral valve) that closes temporarily a passage or orifice or permits movement of fluid in one direction only
- [borrowed from New Latin *valva*, going back to Latin] : one of the distinct usually hinged and movable pieces of which the shell of some shell-bearing animals (such as lamellibranch mollusks, brachiopods, and barnacles) consists
- [borrowed from New Latin *valva*, going back to Latin]
 - a** : one of the segments or pieces into which a dehiscing capsule or legume separates
 - b** : the portion of various anthers (as of the barberry) resembling a lid
 - c** : one of the two encasing membranes of a diatom
- archaic : a leaf of a folding or double door

valved 'valvd • adjective

valveless 'valv-ləs • adjective

Synonyms

cock faucet gate
spigot stopcock tap

See all Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus

Examples of *valve* in a Sentence

They turned off the main water *valve* to the house.

Recent Examples on the Web

Its most recent launch attempt on May 6 was called off due to a stuck *valve* on the rocket launching Starliner.

— Geoff Brumfiel, *NPR*, 1 June 2024

Not comfortable with the *valve*'s performance, mission managers ordered a scrub.

— William Harwood, *CBS News*, 31 May 2024

The original May 6 launch was scuttled hours before takeoff due to a balky rocket *valve*.

— Laurence Darmiento, *Los Angeles Times*, 22 May 2024

But, issues with a faulty fuel *valve* and an unrelated helium leak led to mission management repeatedly nudging back the launch date.

— Rrilev Lewis, *Panular Science*, 22 May 2024

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Many online sources may use the word 'valve' in a way that is not accurate.

[See all Example Sentences for valve >](#)

These examples are programmatically compiled from various online sources to illustrate current usage of the word 'valve.' 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, "leaf of a folding door," borrowed from Latin *valva* (usually in plural *valvae*) "double or folding door, leaf of such a door," perhaps going back to an early derivative of the base of *volvere* "to roll, make turn" — more at [WALLOW entry 1](#)

First Known Use

14th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 5](#)

Time Traveler

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

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

Phrases Containing *valve*

ball valve	bicuspid valve	brake/valve job
butterfly valve	check valve	escape valve
mitral valve	safety valve	semilunar valve
slide valve	tricuspid valve	

Dictionary Entries Near *valve*

[valvate](#)

valve

[valve chest](#)

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Cite this Entry

Style [MLA](#) [v](#)

"Valve." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/valve>. Accessed 10 Jun. 2024.

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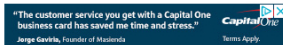
Kids Definition

valve *noun*

[ˈvalv](#) [v](#)

- 1 : a bodily structure (as in a vein or the heart) that closes temporarily to prevent passage of material or that allows movement of a fluid in one direction only
- 2 a : a mechanical device by which the flow of liquid, gas, or loose material in bulk may be controlled by a movable part
also : the movable part of such a device
b : a device in a brass musical instrument for quickly changing the tube length in order to make the tone higher or lower
- 3 : one of the separate pieces that make up the shell of some animals (as clams) and are often hinged
- 4 : one of the pieces into which a ripe seed capsule or pod separates

valved ˈvalvd adjective



Medical Definition

valve noun

ˈvalv

- 1 : a bodily structure (as the mitral valve) that closes temporarily a passage or orifice or permits movement of fluid in one direction only
- 2 : any of various mechanical devices by which the flow of liquid (as blood) may be started, stopped, or regulated by a movable part that opens, shuts, or partially obstructs one or more ports or passageways
also : the movable part of such a device

More from Merriam-Webster on *valve*

Nglish: [Translation of valve for Spanish Speakers](#)
 Britannica English: [Translation of valve for Arabic Speakers](#)
 Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about valve](#)

Last Updated: 5 Jun 2024 - Updated example sentences

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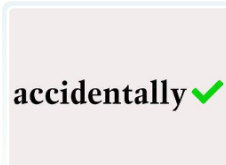
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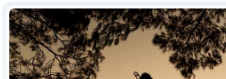
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9 Superb Owl Words



10 Words for Lesser-Known Games and Sports



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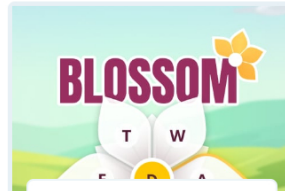
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