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noun 2 Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Related Articles Entries Near Show More

access 1 of 2 noun

ac·cess ('ak-ses) also (ik-'ses)

[Synonyms of access](#)

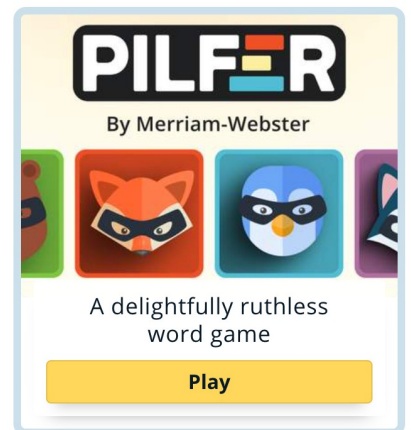
- 1 **a** : permission, liberty, or ability to enter, approach, or pass to and from a place or to approach or communicate with a person or thing
Investigators wanted to get *access* to his home.
consultants who have easy *access* to the president
 - b** : freedom or ability to obtain or make use of something
paying for *access* to the Internet
 - c** : a way or means of entering or approaching
A canal provides *access* to the river.
a building that provides wheelchair *access* [=a way for people in wheelchairs to enter]
 - d** : the act or an instance of *accessing* something
- 2 **a** : **ONSET sense 2**
an *access* of illness
 - b** : a fit of intense feeling : **OUTBURST**
If it had been in Tito's nature to feel an *access* of rage, he would have felt it against this bull-faced accomplice.
— George Eliot
- 3 : an increase by addition
a sudden *access* of wealth

access 2 of 2 verb

accessed; accessing; accesses

transitive verb

: to get at : to gain access to: such as



a : to be able to use, enter, or get near (something)

| *accessed* the computer by phone

| a system that makes it easier to *access* the money in your bank account

b : to open or load (a computer file, an Internet site, etc.)

| a file that can be *accessed* by many users at the same time



WORD OF THE DAY

ossify 

[See Definitions and Examples »](#)

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Synonyms

Noun

attack

bout

case

fit

seizure

siege

spell

turn

Verb

enter

penetrate

pierce

[See all Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus >](#)

Examples of *access* in a Sentence

Noun

| We have Internet **access** at the library.

| a sudden **access** of hay fever was making him feel miserable

Verb

[See More](#) ▾

Recent Examples on the Web

Noun

Research conducted in 2019 by the nonprofit arm of the largest business lobby, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, stressed the importance of employer support for more child-care **access**.

— Kaya Ginsky, *CNBC*, 18 Aug. 2024

The reporter on this story received **access** to this event from Tourisme Montréal.

— Nathan Diller, *USA TODAY*, 18 Aug. 2024

Verb

Making the technology harder or impossible to **access**, then, would have profound effects on countless people, particularly those from marginalized groups.

— Jamie Ducharme, *TIME*, 7 Aug. 2024

Subscribers, who will be locked in at that price for a year, will be able to **access** a number of live, linear channels, including ESPN, Fox, ABC, TNT and TBS, as well as ESPN+.

— Winston Cho, *The Hollywood Reporter*, 7 Aug. 2024

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

These examples are programmatically compiled from various online sources to illustrate current usage of the word 'access.' 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

Noun

Middle English, "entrance, approach, attack of illness, fever, lovesickness," borrowed from Anglo-French & Medieval Latin; Anglo-French *accēs* "attack of illness," (Old French also "liberty to approach"), borrowed from Latin *accessus* "approach, means of entry, right of approach, onset (of fever or illness)," action

noun derived from *accēdere* "to approach" — more at [ACCEDE](#)

Verb

derivative of [ACCESS](#) entry 1

First Known Use

Noun

14th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 2a](#)

Verb

1953, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Time Traveler

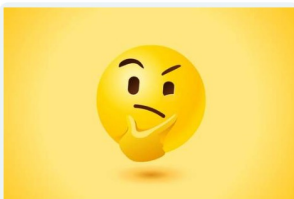
The first known use of *access* was in the 14th century

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

Phrases Containing *access*

access provider	access time	gain/get access to
grant/deny access to	limited-access	public access
random-access	random-access memory	remote access

Articles Related to *access*



**Commonly Confused
Words Quiz**



**A List of Most
Commonly Confused
Words**



'Access' and 'Excess'

Dictionary Entries Near *access*

[accept the fact that](#)

access

[access clerk](#)

[See More Nearby Entries >](#)

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Kids Definition

access 1 of 2 **noun**

ac·cess 'ak-.ses

- 1 : permission or power to enter, approach, or make use of
| *access* to secret information
| Internet *access*
- 2 : a way or means of approach
| a nation's *access* to the sea

access 2 of 2 **verb**

: to get at : gain access to

Legal Definition

access **noun**

ac·cess 'ak-,ses ◁ ▢

often attributive

- 1** : permission, liberty, or ability to enter, approach, communicate with, or pass to and from a place, thing, or person
| public *access* to federal land
| *access* to the courts
- 2** : opportunity for sexual intercourse
- 3** : a landowner's legal right to pass from his or her land to a highway and to return without being obstructed
- 4** : freedom or ability to obtain, make use of, or participate in something
| the right to equal treatment holds with respect to a limited set of interests — like voting — and demands that every person have the same *access* to these interests
— L. H. Tribe
- 5 a** : a way by which a thing or place may be approached or reached
b : passage to and from a place
| provide a means of *access* to the land
- 6** : opportunity to view or copy a copyrighted work

More from Merriam-Webster on *access*

Nglish: [Translation of *access* for Spanish Speakers](#)

Britannica English: [Translation of *access* for Arabic Speakers](#)

Last Updated: 21 Aug 2024 - Updated example sentences

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Popular in Grammar & Usage

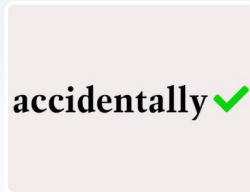
[See All >](#)



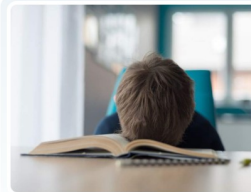
Plural and Possessive Names: A Guide



31 Useful Rhetorical Devices



More Commonly Misspelled Words



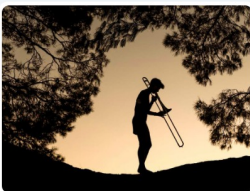
Absent Letters That Are Heard Anyway



How to Use Accents and Diacritical Marks

Popular in Wordplay

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8 Words for Lesser-Known Musical Instruments



It's a Scorch! Words for the Summer Heat



7 Shakespearean Insults to Make Life More Interesting



10 Words from Taylor Swift Songs (Merriam's Version)



9 Superb Owl Words

Games & Quizzes

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Quordle

Can you solve 4 words at once?

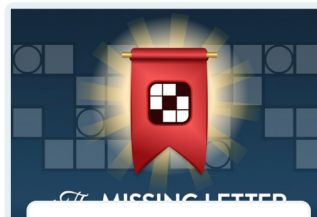
Play



Blossom Word Game

Pick the best words!

Play



Missing Letter

A daily crossword with a twist

Play



Name That Thing MegaQuiz: Vol. 4

Test your visual vocabulary!

Take the quiz



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Delivered to your inbox!

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