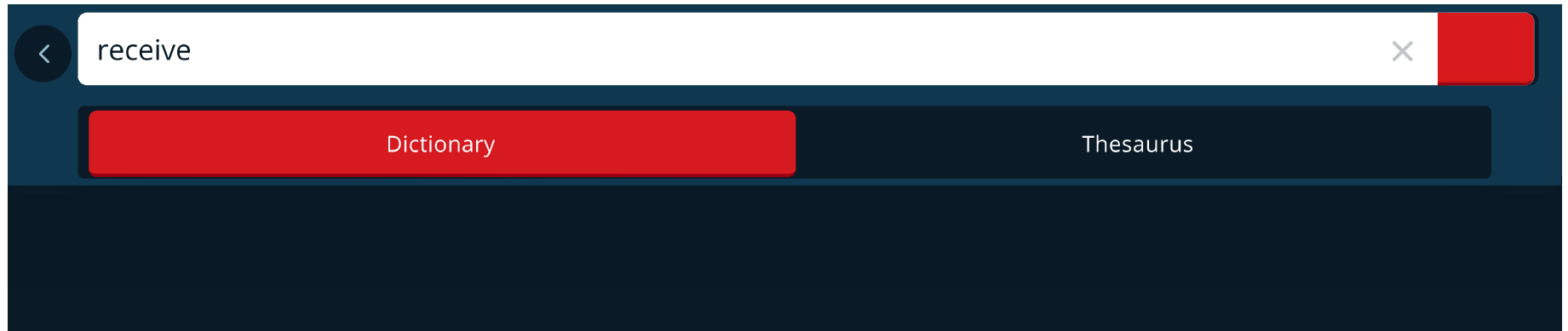




receive verb

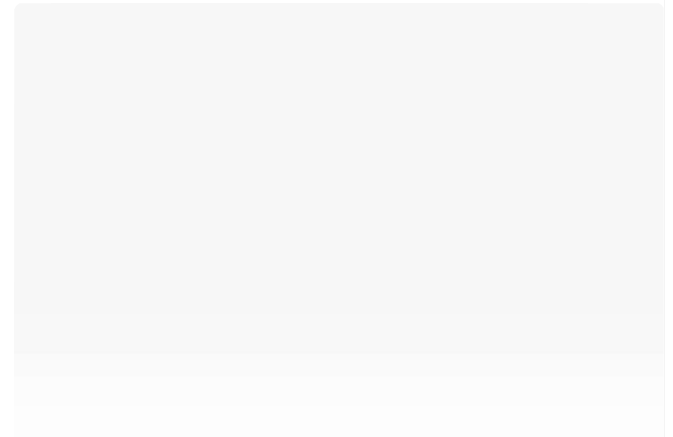
re·ceive ri-'sēv

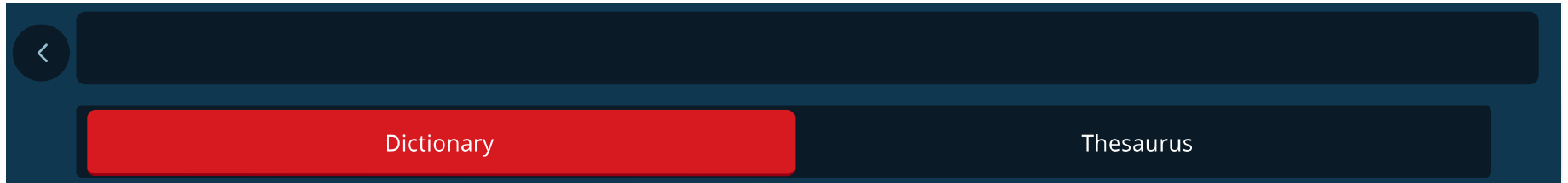
received; receiving

[Synonyms of receive](#) >

transitive verb

- 1** : to come into possession of : **ACQUIRE**
| *receive a gift*
- 2 a** : to act as a **receptacle** or container for
| the cistern *receives* water from the roof
b : to **assimilate** through the mind or senses
| *receive new ideas*
- 3 a** : to permit to enter : **ADMIT**
b : **WELCOME, GREET**





b : to take (a mark or [impression](#)) from the weight of something

| some clay *receives* clear impressions

c : **ACQUIRE, EXPERIENCE**

| *received* his early schooling at home

d : to suffer the hurt or injury of

| *received* a broken nose

intransitive verb

1 : to be a recipient

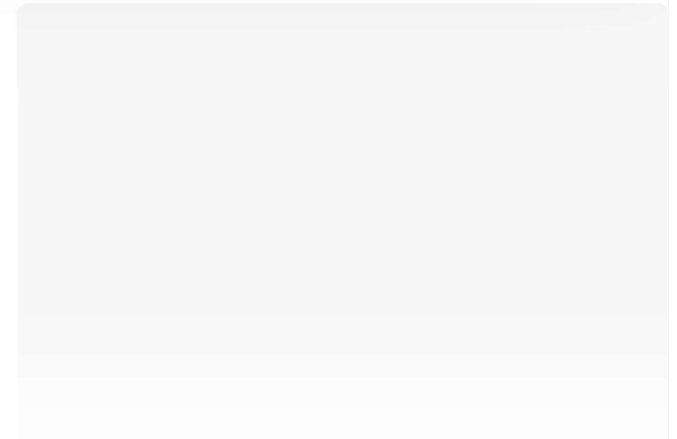
2 : to be at home to visitors

| *receives* on Tuesdays

3 : to convert incoming radio waves into [perceptible](#) signals

4 : to prepare to take possession of the ball from a kick in football

• Synonyms



WORD OF THE DAY

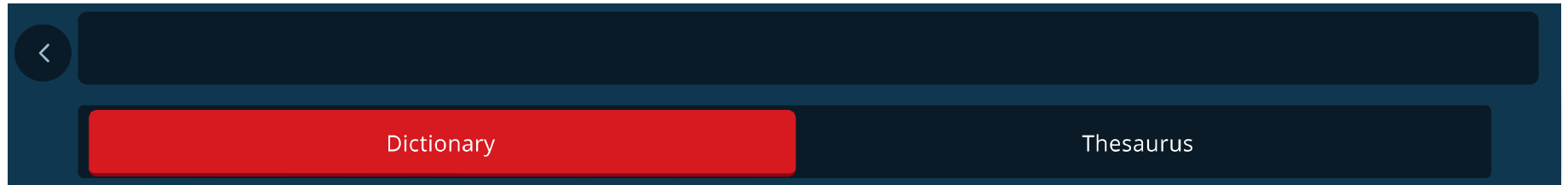
encroach

[See Definitions and Examples »](#)

Get Word of the Day daily email!

Your email address

SUBSCRIBE



• Examples of *receive* in a Sentence

... his stark and devastating description of Vichy collaborationism (which he based on German and American archives) was rather badly **received** in France ...

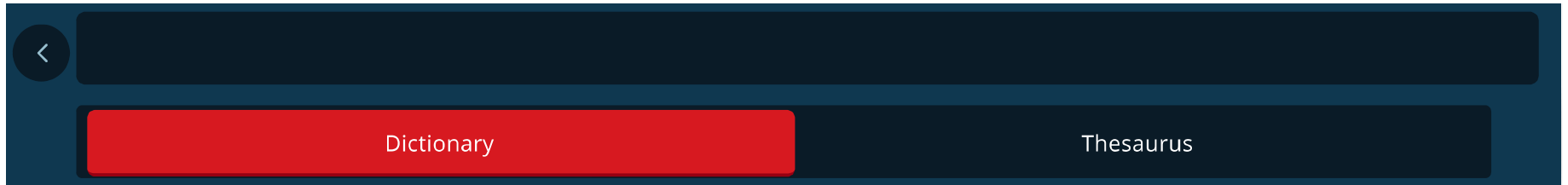
— Stanley Hoffmann, *New York Times Book Review*, 1 Nov. 1981

George, white-gloved, with a gardenia in his buttonhole, stood with his mother and the Major, embowered in the big red and gold drawing room downstairs, to "**receive**" the guests; and, standing thus together, the trio offered a picturesque example of good looks persistent through three generations.

— Booth Tarkington, *The Magnificent Ambersons*, 1918

From this time the astronomer was **received** into familiar friendship, and partook of all their projects and pleasures: his respect kept him attentive, and the activity of Rasselas did not leave much time unengaged.

— Samuel Johnson, *Rasselas*, 1759



Recent Examples on the Web

i Examples are automatically compiled from online sources to show current usage. [Read More](#)

For Mother's Day one year, a large number of women in his family **received** camouflage sweatpants.

— Scott Cacciola, *New York Times*, 17 Jan. 2025

On Monday, after **receiving** a large donation from the production company Neon, Vidiots began screening movies for free to provide that outlet.

— Karissa Waddick, *USA TODAY*, 17 Jan. 2025

As is quickly becoming the norm, the Polestar 2 will **receive** over-the-air software updates throughout its life.

— Alistair Charlton, *Forbes*, 17 Jan. 2025

That is why Trump **received** more votes than any other Republican in history.

— Gary Franks, *Hartford Courant*, 17 Jan. 2025



Dictionary

Thesaurus

• Word History

Etymology

Middle English, from Anglo-French *receivre*, from Latin *recipere*, from *re-* + *capere* to take — more at [HEAVE entry 1](#)

First Known Use

14th century, in the meaning defined at [transitive sense 1](#)

Time Traveler

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

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

• Dictionary Entries Near *receive*

[receival](#)

receive

[received](#)



Dictionary

Thesaurus

Cite this Entry

Style

MLA



"Receive." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/receive>. Accessed 31 Jan. 2025.

[Copy Citation](#)

Share



Facebook

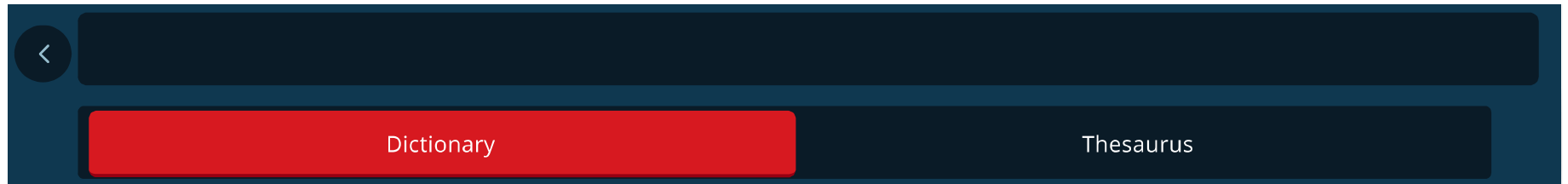


Twitter

Kids Definition

receive

verb



receive the money

receive a letter

2 : to welcome on arrival : **GREET**

receive friends

3 : to hold a reception

receive from four to six o'clock

4 : **EXPERIENCE entry 2**

receive a shock

5 : to change incoming radio waves into sounds or pictures

Etymology

Middle English *receiven* "to gain possession of," from early French *receivre* (same meaning), from Latin *recipere* "receive, take back," from *re-* "back, again" and *capere* "to take" — related to **ACCEPT**, **CAPTURE**

• **More from Merriam-Webster on *receive***



Dictionary

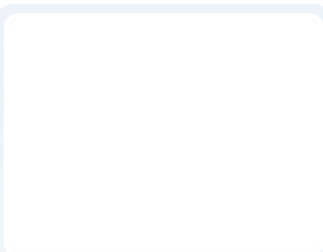
Thesaurus

Love words? Need even more definitions?

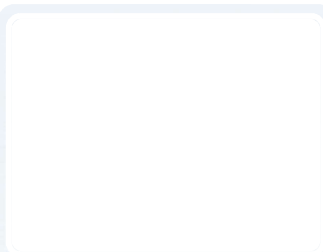
Subscribe to America's largest dictionary and get thousands more definitions and advanced search—ad free!

MERRIAM-WEBSTER UNABRIDGED

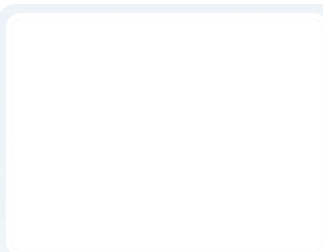
Popular in Grammar & Usage

[See All >](#)

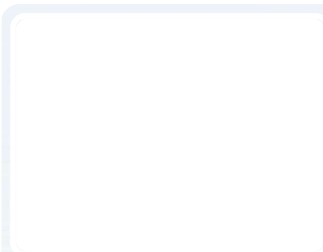
Plural and Possessive Names:



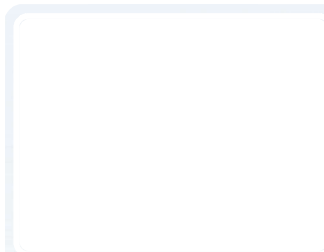
What's the difference



More Commonly Misspelled Words



Words You Always Have to Look Up



Your vs. You're: How to Use Them



Dictionary

Thesaurus

More Words with Remarkable Origins

12 Words Whose History Will Surprise You

8 Words for Lesser-Known Musical Instruments

Birds Say the Darndest Things

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

Games & Quizzes

See All >

Quordle

Blossom Word Game

Missing Letter

Synonym Sandwich Quiz



Dictionary

Thesaurus

Play

Play

Share this page

Learn a new word every day.
Delivered to your inbox!

Your email address

SUBSCRIBE

Help | About Us | Advertising Info | Contact Us | Diversity | Privacy Policy | Terms of Use

© 2025 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

