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automatic 1 of 2 adjective

au-to-mat-ic (,ô-tə-'ma-tik)

[Synonyms of automatic](#)

- a** : largely or wholly involuntary
especially : **REFLEX sense 5**
automatic blinking of the eyelids
b : acting or done spontaneously or unconsciously
the automatic applause of the audience
c : done or produced as if by machine : **MECHANICAL**
the answers were automatic
- : having a self-acting or self-regulating mechanism
an automatic transmission
- of a firearm** : firing repeatedly until the trigger is released

automatically (ô-tə-'ma-tik) adverb





jective **2** Synonyms Synonym Chooser Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Entries

automatic 2 of 2 noun

1 : a machine or apparatus that operates **automatically**

especially : an automatic firearm

2 a : an automatic transmission

a car with a three-speed *automatic*

b : an **automobile** with an automatic transmission

Is your car an *automatic* or a manual?

3 **American football** : **AUDIBLE**

Synonyms

Adjective

instinctive

instinctual

involuntary

knee-jerk

mechanic

mechanical

robotic

spontaneous



WORD OF THE DAY

livid

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Choose the Right Synonym for *automatic*

SPONTANEOUS, IMPULSIVE, INSTINCTIVE, AUTOMATIC, MECHANICAL mean acting or activated without deliberation.

SPONTANEOUS implies lack of prompting and connotes naturalness.

| a *spontaneous* burst of applause

IMPULSIVE implies acting under stress of emotion or spirit of the moment.

| *impulsive* acts of violence

INSTINCTIVE stresses action involving neither judgment nor will.

| blinking is an *instinctive* reaction

AUTOMATIC implies action engaging neither the mind nor the emotions and connotes a predictable response.

| his denial was *automatic*

MECHANICAL stresses the lifeless, often perfunctory character of the response.

| a *mechanical* teaching method



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Adjective

Without thinking, he gave an **automatic** reply.

She always has an **automatic** smile for everyone.

Noun

Will your next car be a manual or an **automatic**?

Recent Examples on the Web

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

Adjective

Founded in Paris 250 years ago, Abraham-Louis Breguet was one of the most influential watchmakers in history, best known for inventing the tourbillon and the **automatic** winding system—along with many other groundbreaking innovations.

—Paige Reddinger, *Robb Report*, 6 Feb. 2025



Adjective **2** Synonyms Synonym Chooser Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Entries

Noun

There were, at most, two **automatics** on the pad at any time for as many as twenty people, so real practice behind the wheel was quite limited, as few of us knew how to operate the pad's two manual trucks.

— Emily Gogolak, *Harper's Magazine*, 2 Feb. 2024

The gearbox offerings will likely include 6-speed manuals and 8-speed **automatics**.

— Michael Harley, *Forbes*, 30 Nov. 2024

[See all Example Sentences for *automatic*](#) >

Word History

Etymology

Adjective

borrowed from New Latin *automaticus*, from Latin *automatum*

"contrivance with a hidden mechanism that appears to operate on its



Adjective **2** Synonyms Synonym Chooser Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Entry

First Known Use

Adjective

1686, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

Noun

1870, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *automatic* was in 1686

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

Phrases Containing *automatic*

[automatic pilot](#)

[automatic teller](#)

[automatic teller machine](#)

[automatic transmission](#)

[automatic writing](#)

[Browning automatic rifle](#)



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automated teller machine

automatic

automatic block signal

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Kids Definition

automatic 1 of 2 adjective

au·to·mat·ic (,ô-t-ə-'mat-ik ▶▶)

1 a : largely or wholly involuntary

especially : **REFLEX sense 2**

b : acting or done without conscious thought or intention

| an *automatic* smile

2 : having devices or mechanisms that permit operation without help from a person

| *automatic* washer

3 : firing repeatedly until the trigger is released

| an *automatic* rifle

automatically (-'mat-i-k(ə-)lē ▶▶) adverb

automatic 2 of 2 noun



ective **2** Synonyms Synonym Chooser Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Entries

Legal Definition

automatic adjective

au·to·mat·ic

: happening or existing through the operation of a preexisting arrangement that is triggered by some event

specifically : happening or existing through the operation of law

| *automatic* reversal

| an *automatic* appeal

automatically adverb

More from Merriam-Webster on *automatic*

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



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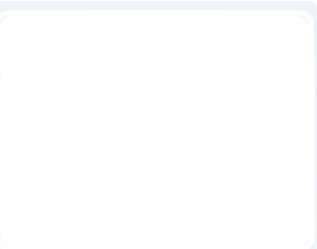
-
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(•)
-
- Why is '-ed' sometimes
-
- What's the difference
-
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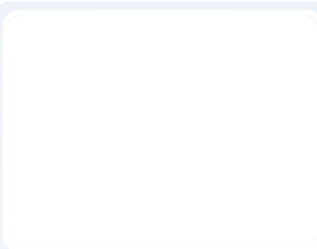
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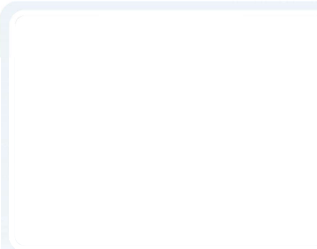
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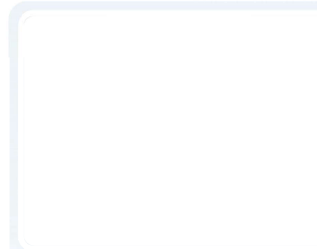
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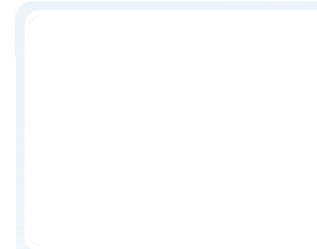
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