



recess

noun 2

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recess

 1 of 2 noun

re·cess (ˈrē-,ses ri-)

[Synonyms of recess >](#)

- 1 : the action of [receding](#) : **RECESSION entry 1**
- 2 : a hidden, secret, or secluded place or part
- 3 a : **INDENTATION, CLEFT**
a deep *recess* in the hill
b : **ALCOVE**
a *recess* lined with books
- 4 : a suspension of business or procedure often for rest or relaxation
children playing at *recess*

recess

 2 of 2 verb**recessed; recessing; recesses***transitive verb*

- 1 : to put into a recess
recessed lighting
- 2 : to make a recess in
- 3 : to interrupt for a recess

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The students play outside after lunch and at **recess**.

Do you have morning **recess**?

The Senate debates will continue after the August **recess**.

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— Carly Tegen-Dye, *People.com*, 4 Oct. 2024

That could take some time as Congress is on **recess** until Nov. 12.

— Rebecca Picciotto, *CNBC*, 3 Oct. 2024

Verb

Instead, they're **recessed** for a flatter, more comfortable profile.

— Victoria Song, *The Verge*, 3 Oct. 2024

More than a week into the proceedings, the trial **recessed** for a long weekend break.

— Peter Van Sant, *CBS News*, 28 Sep. 2024

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These examples are programmatically compiled from various online sources to illustrate current usage of the word 'recess.' Any opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#) about these examples.

Etymology

Noun

Latin *recessus*, from *recedere* to recede

First Known Use

Noun

1531, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Verb

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"Recess." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/recess>. Accessed 17 Oct. 2024.

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re·cess (ˈrē-,ses ri-'ses)

1 : a hidden or secret place**2 a** : a space or little hollow set back (as from the main line of a coast or mountain range)**b** : **ALCOVE sense 1****3** : a brief period for relaxation between periods of work**recess** 2 of 2 **verb****1** : to put into a recess
recessed lighting**2** : to make a recess in**3** : to interrupt for or take a recess**recess** **noun**

re·cess (ˈrē-,ses ri-'ses)

: an anatomical depression or cleft : **FOSSA**

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: a temporary adjournment of a trial, hearing, or legislative session

verb

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

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