



pertaining



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pertain verb

per·tain (pər-ˈtān ◀▶)

pertained; pertaining; pertains

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intransitive verb

1 a (1) : to belong as a part, member, accessory, or product

(2) : to belong as an attribute, feature, or function

| the destruction *pertaining* to war

(3) : to belong as a duty or right

| rights that *pertain* to fatherhood

b : to be appropriate to something

| which rule *pertains*?

2 : to have reference

| books *pertaining* to birds

Did you know?

Pertain comes to English via Anglo-French from the Latin verb *pertinēre*, meaning "to reach to" or "to belong." *Pertinēre*, in turn, was formed by combining the prefix *per-* (meaning "through") and *tenēre* ("to hold"). *Tenēre* is a popular root in English words and often manifests with the *-tain* spelling that can be seen in *pertain*. Other descendants include *abstain*, *contain*, *detain*, *maintain*, *obtain*, *retain*, and *sustain*, to name a few of the more common ones. Not every *-tain* word has *tenēre* in its ancestry, though. *Ascertain*, *attain*, and *certain* are certainly exceptions. And a few *tenēre* words don't follow the usual pattern: *tenacious* and *tenure* are two.



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belong

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Examples of *pertain* in a sentence

books **pertaining to** the country's history

the belief that quality medical care is a right that **pertains** to everyone

Recent Examples on the Web

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

One of the most perplexing and detrimental aesthetic choices implemented here **pertains** to the emblematic animals in Dora's purview.

— Carlos Aguilar, *Variety*, 5 July 2025

This may seem a generous assessment—a prudent forecast would be crazy-high intoxication, at a minimum—but this **pertains** to the have-it-large contingent, which is relatively small.

— Jazz Monroe, *Pitchfork*, 5 July 2025

The citizenship tracking issue **pertains** to how the state's Motor Vehicle Division provided information to the state's voter registration database.

— Sasha Hupka, *AZCentral.com*, 3 July 2025

The text obtained by The Hill only **pertains** to Bureau of Land Management lands, complying with Lee's promise to ax provisions in his original bill that would have also included National Forests.

— Rachel Frazin, *The Hill*, 25 June 2025

[See All Example Sentences for *pertain*](#) >

Word History

Etymology

Middle English *perteinen*, from Anglo-French *partenir*, *purteiner*, from Latin *pertinēre* to reach to, belong, from *per-* through + *tenēre* to hold — more at [THIN](#)

**Definition**

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Time Traveler**The first known use of *pertain* was in the 14th century**[See more words from the same century](#)**Rhymes for *pertain***[abstain](#)[airplane](#)[alkane](#)[arcane](#)[arraign](#)[attain](#)[backplane](#)[betaine](#)[biplane](#)[blockchain](#)[butane](#)[campaign](#)[See All Rhymes for *pertain* >](#)**Browse Nearby Words**[pert](#)**pertain**[Perth](#)[See All Nearby Words >](#)**Podcast**





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Kids Definition

pertain

verb

per·tain [\(per-'tān\)](#)



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: to have reference

| books *pertaining* to birds

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English: [Translation of *pertain* for Spanish Speakers](#)

Last Updated: 9 Jul 2025 - Updated example sentences

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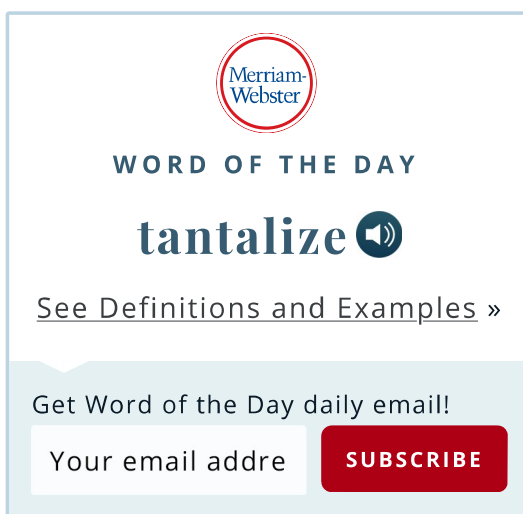
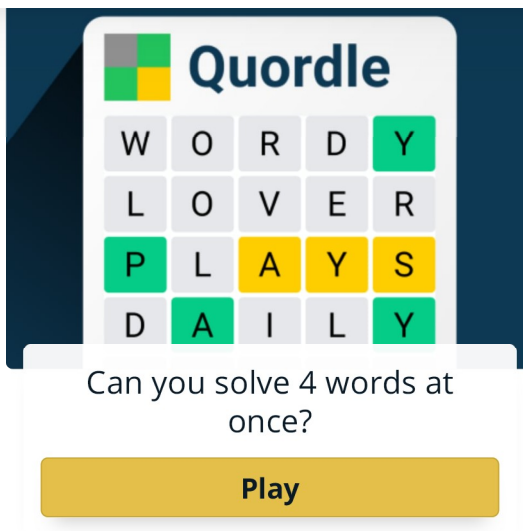
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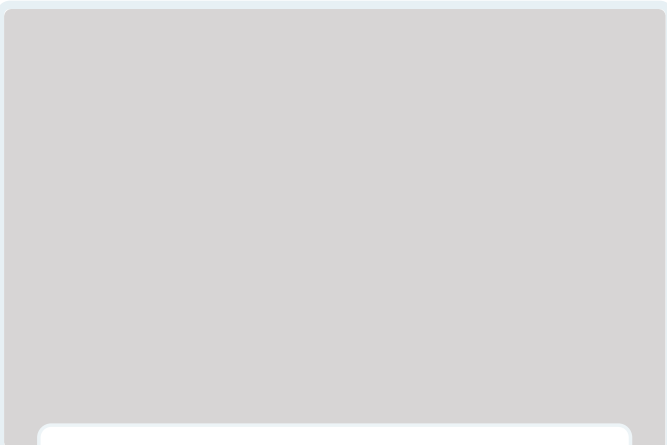
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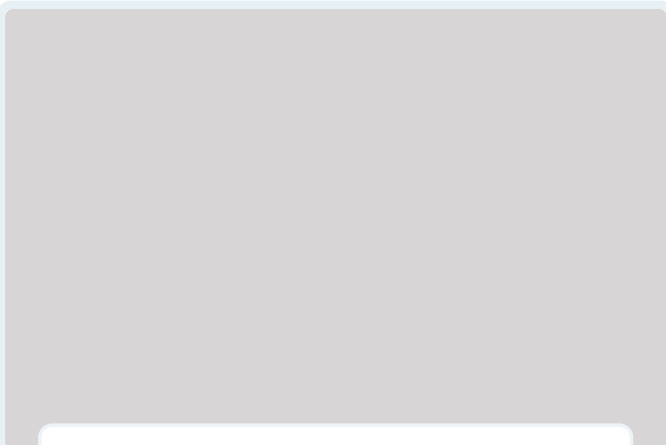
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Games & Quizzes



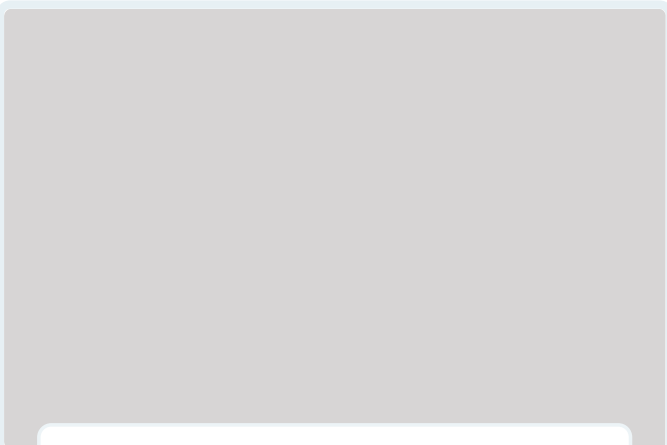
Quordle
Can you solve 4 words at once?

Play



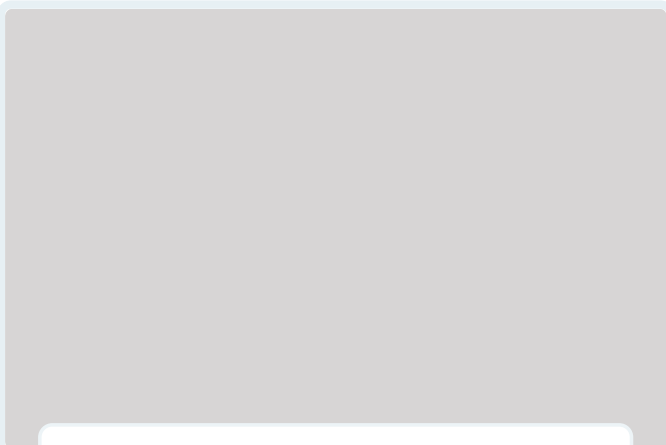
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Pick the best words!

Play



Missing Letter
A daily crossword with a twist

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