



noun **3** ▼ Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Rhyme

channel

1 of 3 noun (1)

chan·nel ('cha-nəl)

[Synonyms of channel >](#)

- 1 a** : the bed where a natural stream of water runs
- b** : the deeper part of a river, harbor, or strait
- c** : a strait or narrow sea between two close landmasses
| crossed the English *Channel*
- d** : a means of communication or expression: such as
 - (1) : a path along which information (such as data or music) in the form of an electrical signal passes
 - (2) **channels plural** : a fixed or official course of communication
| went through established military *channels* with his grievances
- e** : a way, course, or direction of thought or action
| new *channels* of exploration
- f** : a band of frequencies of sufficient width for a single radio or television communication
- g** : **CHANNELER**
- h** : an account on an online media sharing or streaming service from which one can make media content (such as videos) available to others using the service
| The video was posted Saturday and has been viewed thousands of times since being picked up by YouTube *channels* devoted to UFOs and unsolved mysteries ...
— Mark Price
| The Washington Post and Bloomberg covered the Russia-United States summit live on their Twitch *channels*.
— Alexandra Arriaga

2 a : a usually tubular enclosed passage : **CONDUIT**



noun **3** Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Rhyme

also : the proteins or such a passage

→ compare [ION CHANNEL](#)

3 : a long gutter, groove, or furrow

| a road *channel*

4 : a metal bar of flattened U-shaped section

channel 2 of 3 verb

channeled or channelled; channeling or channelling

transitive verb

1 a : to form, cut, or wear a channel in

| The river *channeled* a new course.

b : to make a groove in

| *channel* a chair leg

2 : to convey or direct into or through a channel

| *channel* his energy into useful work

3 : to serve as a [channeler](#) or intermediary for

| a 35,000-year-old female *channeled* by a 40-year-old housewife

channel 3 of 3 noun (2)

: one of the flat ledges of heavy plank or metal bolted edgewise to the outside of a ship to increase the spread of the shrouds (see [SHROUD entry 1 sense 3a](#))



noun **3** ▼ Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Rhym

Verb

direct

pipe

funnel

channelize

carry

conduct

canalize

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

Examples of *channel* in a Sentence

Noun (1)

water was drained from the swamp through a specially constructed **channel**

the world record for swimming the **channel** between France and Great Britain

you need to make arrangements through the proper **channels**

[See More ▼](#)

Recent Examples on the Web

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

Noun

But the salesperson also has to be protected against illegitimate complaints or unwarranted approaches outside of normal **channels**.

—Judith Martin, *Mercury News*, 25 Feb. 2026



noun **3** ▼ Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Rhym

— Cynthia Littleton, *Variety*, 24 Feb. 2020

Verb

While its romanticized view of the past may not be for everyone, the series excels in demonstrating da Vinci's boundless creativity, **channeled** through Tom Riley's cheeky, charismatic performance that brings the artist into the 21st century.

— Kevin Jacobsen, *Entertainment Weekly*, 25 Feb. 2026

Casa Maruka Cleverly **channeling** an old-fashioned casa de comidas complete with an imaginary granny (Maruka) at the stove and classic Spanish dishes tweaked for modern tastes, Alberto Serrano and Maria José Calabria continue to preside over what may be Palma's most consistently enjoyable restaurant.

— Paul Richardson, *Condé Nast Traveler*, 25 Feb. 2026

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

Word History

Etymology

Noun (1) and Verb

Middle English *chanel*, from Anglo-French, from Latin *canalis* channel — more at [CANAL](#)

Noun (2)

alteration of *chainwale*, from [CHAIN](#) entry 1 + [WALE](#) entry 1

First Known Use

Noun (1)

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



noun **3** [Synonyms](#) [Example Sentences](#) [Word History](#) [Phrases Containing](#) [Rhymes](#)

1672, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Time Traveler

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

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

Phrases Containing *channel*

[back channel](#)

[calcium channel blocker](#)

[channel bass](#)

[channel catfish](#)

[channel-hopping](#)

[channel surfing](#)

[inter-channel](#)

[ion channel](#)

Rhymes for *channel*

[annal](#)

[annul](#)

[cannel](#)

[flannel](#)

[panel](#)

[pannel](#)

[multichannel](#)

[perianal](#)

[See All Rhymes for *channel* >](#)



noun **3** ▼ Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Rhym

chankings

channel

channel-back

[See All Nearby Words >](#)

Cite this Entry

Style

MLA ▼

"Channel." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/channel>. Accessed 1 Mar. 2026.

[Copy Citation](#)

Kids Definition

channel 1 of 2 **noun**

chan·nel ('chan-əl)

- 1 : the bed of a stream
- 2 : the deeper part of a river, harbor, or strait
- 3 : a strait or a narrow sea between two close large areas of land
| the English *Channel*



noun **3** Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Rhyme

communication

6 : a closed passage through which something flows

7 : a long gutter, groove, or track

channel 2 of 2 verb

channeled or **channelled**; **channeling** or **channelling**

1 : to form a channel in

2 : to direct into or through a channel

Medical Definition

channel noun

chan·nel ('chan-əl

1 : a usually tubular enclosed passage

2 a : a passage created in a selectively permeable membrane by a conformational **change** in membrane proteins

→ see **ION CHANNEL**

b : a protein or cluster of proteins that functions as a channel

→ see **CALCIUM CHANNEL BLOCKER**

More from Merriam-Webster on *channel*



noun **3** [Synonyms](#) [Example Sentences](#) [Word History](#) [Phrases Containing](#) [Rhyme](#)

Last Updated: 26 Feb 2026 - Updated example sentences

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

More from Merriam-Webster



Top Lookups

1 existential

2 happy

3 enigma



noun **3** ▼ Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Rhyme

7 love



WORD OF THE DAY

paean 

[See Definitions and Examples »](#)

Get Word of the Day daily email!

Your email address

SUBSCRIBE

Popular

More Words You Always Have to Look Up

The Opposite of Déjà Vu

Why do we say 'make a beeline'?



noun **3** ▼ Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Rhym



Quordle

Can you solve 4 words at once?

Play



Blossom

Pick the best words!

Play



The Missing Letter

A daily crossword with a twist

Play



What's on the Menu?

Sink your teeth into these questions about food.

Take the quiz

[See All >](#)



noun **3** ▼ Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Rhym

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

   

© 2026 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated