



relationship



Definition

Synonyms

Example Sentences

Word History

Phrases Containing

Rhy

relationship noun

re·la·tion·ship (ri-'lā-shən-,ship )

Synonyms of *relationship*

- 1** : the way in which two or more things or people are connected : the state of being **related** or interrelated

the *relationship* between physical and mental health

studied the *relationship* between the variables

the doctor-patient *relationship*

Take our 3 question quiz on ***relationship***

- 2 a** : the way in which two or more people, groups, countries, etc., talk to, behave toward, and deal with each other

had a good *relationship* with his family

The *relationship* between the two countries has improved.

She and her brother have a close *relationship*.

We have a great ***working relationship***.

The two teammates have a ***love-hate relationship***. [=a mixture of love and hate for one another]

- b** : one's feelings or behavior towards something that one deals with regularly

raising kids to have a healthy *relationship* with food

I have a ***love-hate relationship*** with technology.

- c** : a romantic or sexual friendship

I am not interested in a *relationship* right now.

**Definition**

Synonyms

Example Sentences

Word History

Phrases Containing

Rhy

b : a specific instance or type or kinsnip
a list of family *relationships*

Relevance

kinship

connection

association

correlation

relation

linkage

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

The **relationship** between the two countries has improved.

She has a close **relationship** with her sister.

She has had many bad **relationships**.

I am not in a **relationship** right now.

[See More](#) ▼**Recent Examples on the Web**

**Definition**

Synonyms

Example Sentences

Word History

Phrases Containing

Rhy

Breakthrough has **relationships** with several schools in the area and regularly visits schools to present its program to area fourth graders, Cox said.

– Austin Horn July 1, *Miami Herald*, 1 July 2026 [↗](#)

The agency continues to struggle with chronic staffing shortages, declining employee morale, and the recent dissolution of its union **relationship**.

– Walter Pavlo, *Forbes.com*, 1 July 2026 [↗](#)

That unpredictability, coupled with Johnson's razor-thin voting margin, is testing the seemingly cozy **relationship** between the speaker and the president ahead of the midterms.

– Francesca Chambers, *USA Today*, 2 July 2026 [↗](#)

[See All Example Sentences for relationship](#)

First Known Use

1724, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *relationship* was in 1724

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

**Definition**[Synonyms](#)[Example Sentences](#)[Word History](#)[Phrases Containing](#)[Rhy](#)[apostleship](#)[assistantship](#)[chancellorship](#)[companionship](#)[dictatorship](#)[discipleship](#)[apprenticeship](#)[championship](#)[citizenship](#)[copartnership](#)[directorship](#)[editorship](#)[See All Rhymes for *relationship*](#)[relationless](#)**relationship**[relational](#)[See All Nearby Words](#)

**Definition**

Synonyms

Example Sentences

Word History

Phrases Containing

Rhy

12 Words and Phrases for Romantic...

This list warms the cockles of our hearts

Style

MLA

"Relationship." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/relationship>. Accessed 8 Jul. 2026.

 [Copy Citation](#)

relationship noun

re·la·tion·ship ri-'lā-shən-,ship **1** : the state of being relatedstudy language *relationships***2** : **KINSHIP**claimed *relationship* with the mayor



Definition

Synonyms

Example Sentences

Word History

Phrases Containing

Rhy

relationship noun

re·la·tion·ship -shən-, ship

1 : the state of being related or interrelated

research into the *relationship* between diet, blood, cholesterol levels, and coronary heart disease

— *Current Biography*

2 a : a state of affairs existing between those having relations or dealings called on to assume the role of personal advisor in the doctor-patient *relationship*

— *The Journal of the American Medical Association*

b : an emotional attachment between individuals
a meaningful *relationship*

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

Last Updated: 2 Jul 2026 - Updated example sentences

**Definition**

Synonyms

Example Sentences

Word History

Phrases Containing

Rhy

MERRIAM-WEBSTER UNABRIDGED

Top Lookups

Next refresh: 20

- 1** fissiparous
- 2** fascism
- 3** galoot
- 4** hellion
- 5** secure
- 6** lord
- 7** rascalion

**Definition**

Synonyms

Example Sentences

Word History

Phrases Containing

Rhy

WORD OF THE DAY**gambol** [See Definitions and Examples »](#)

Get Word of the Day daily email!

Your email address **SUBSCRIBE****Is that lie 'bald-faced' or 'bold-faced'?****14 Phobias You Probably Haven't Heard Of****The Longest Long Words List**

**Definition**[Synonyms](#)[Example Sentences](#)[Word History](#)[Phrases Containing](#)[Rhy](#)**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](#)**Hangman Lightning Round**

Figure out which word fits in the blanks.

[Take the quiz](#)[See All](#)



Definition

Synonyms

Example Sentences

Word History

Phrases Containing

Rhy



© 2026 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated