

# Merriam-Webster



check valve  



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*LIFE VAC v. DCSTAR*  
U.S. Patent No. 11,478,575  
Life Vac Ex. 1018

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Est. 1828



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# check valve

## noun

: a valve that permits flow in one direction only

## Example Sentences

Recent Examples on the Web Since then, engineers have replaced and tested a *check valve* on the upper stage and fixed a small leak within the tail service mast umbilical used during fueling, said Cliff Lanham, senior vehicle operations manager at NASA's Exploration Ground Systems Program. —Ashley Strickland, *CNN*, 27 May 2022 But since the water is moving into a closed valve, it is redirected up past the other *check valve*, B, and causes the air space to be compressed. —*WIRED*, 24 Mar. 2023 The craft was meant to enter orbit around five years ago, but a clogged *check valve* prevented it from performing a braking maneuver, sending it on a years-long trip around the sun. —Nathaniel Scharping, *Discover Magazine*, 18 Oct. 2016 [See More](#)

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

## Word History

First Known Use

circa 1877, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *check valve* was circa 1877

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

## Dictionary Entries Near *check valve*

[checkup man](#)

check valve

[check viewer](#)

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## Cite this Entry

Style

MLA ▼

“Check valve.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/check%20valve>. Accessed 14 Apr. 2023.

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lackadaisical [See Definitions and Examples »](#)

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spread through  
sexual activity.**



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**Absent Letters That Are  
Heard Anyway**

When letters make sounds that  
aren't associated w...

•

## Better Ways to Say "This Sucks"

Go on...make your English teacher proud.

- 

## When Were Words First Used?

Look up any year to find out

- 

## ASK THE EDITORS

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## Weird Plurals

One goose, two geese. One moose, two... moose. Wh...

- 

## Irregardless

It is in fact a real word (but that doesn't mean ...

- 

## Bring vs. Take

Both words imply motion, but the difference may b...

- 

## Defenestration

The fascinating story behind many people's favori...

-

## WORD GAMES

### Farm Idioms Quiz

If you've got a pig in a poke - what exactly is a...

- [TAKE THE QUIZ >](#)

### Name That Hat!

Time to put on your thinking cap.

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### Name That Thing

You know what it looks like... but what is it cal...

- [TAKE THE QUIZ >](#)

### Spelling Bee Quiz

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