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ABRIR CUENTA

sacrifice noun

Save Word

sac·ri·fice | \ˈsɑ-krə-ˌfɪs also -fəs or -fɪz \

Definition of sacrifice (Entry 1 of 2)

- : an act of offering to a deity something precious especially: the killing of a victim on an altar
- : something offered in sacrifice
- : destruction or surrender of something for the sake of something else
 - : something given up or lost // *the sacrifices made by parents*
- : LOSS // *goods sold at a sacrifice*
- : SACRIFICE HIT

sacrifice verb

sacrificed; sacrificing

Definition of sacrifice (Entry 2 of 2)

transitive verb

- : to offer as a sacrifice
- : to suffer loss of, give up, renounce, injure, or destroy especially for an ideal, belief, or end
- : to sell at a loss
- : to advance (a base runner) by means of a sacrifice hit
- : to kill (an animal) as part of a scientific experiment

intransitive verb

- : to make or perform the rites of a sacrifice
- : to make a sacrifice hit in baseball

- Other Words from sacrifice
- Synonyms
- More Example Sentences
- Learn More about sacrifice

Other Words from sacrifice

Verb

sacrificer *noun*

Synonyms for sacrifice

Synonyms: Noun

immolation, offering, victim

Synonyms: Verb

immolate, offer

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Examples of sacrifice in a Sentence

Noun

// The war required everyone to make sacrifices.

// No sacrifice is too great when it comes to her children.

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Recent Examples on the Web: Noun

// But a virtual, at-home celebration is of course a small sacrifice to keep us moving towards the promise of a post-COVID 2021.

— Daisly Shaw-ellis, *Vogue*, "16 Statement Earrings to Wear While Watching The Ball Drop on New Year's Eve," 26 Dec. 2020

// While these omissions could be a sacrifice to the book's tidy page count, the inclusion of nearly an entire chapter detailing Hitler's military rampage is a questionable choice.

— Ben Wilson, *Star Tribune*, "Review: 'Metropolis,' by Ben Wilson," 18 Dec. 2020

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'sacrifice.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback.](#)

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First Known Use of sacrifice

Noun

13th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1

Verb

14th century, in the meaning defined at transitive sense 1

History and Etymology for sacrifice

Noun

Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Latin *sacrificium*, from *sacr-*, *sacer* + *facere* to make — more at [DQ](#)

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Time Traveler for sacrifice

The first known use of sacrifice was in the 13th century

See more words from the same century

From the Editors at Merriam-Webster

Trending: Trump: 'I Think I've Made a Lot of Sacrifices'
The word trended for nearly a week following Trump's response to Khizr Khan

Trending Words from Election 2016
The words Americans looked up most

Dictionary Entries near sacrifice

sacrifice

sacrificator

sacrificatory

sacrifice

sacrifice bunt

sacrifice fly

sacrifice hit

See More Nearby Entries

Phrases Related to sacrifice

give/sacrifice one's life

make the final/supreme/ultimate sacrifice

sacrifice one's life

Statistics for sacrifice

Last Updated

8 Jan 2021

Look-up Popularity

Top 1% of words

Cite this Entry

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rapport

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More Definitions for sacrifice

sacrifice noun

1

English Language Learners Definition of sacrifice (Entry 1 of 2)

: the act of giving up something that you want to keep especially in order to get or do something else or to help someone

: an act of killing a person or animal in a religious ceremony as an offering to please a god

: a person or animal that is killed in a sacrifice

sacrifice verb

English Language Learners Definition of sacrifice (Entry 2 of 2)

: to give up (something that you want to keep) especially in order to get or do something else or to help someone

: to kill (a person or animal) in a religious ceremony as an offering to please a god

: to make a sacrifice bunt

See the full definition for sacrifice in the English Language Learners Dictionary

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sacrifice noun

sac·ri·fice | \ˈsɑ-krə-ˌfɪs also -fəs or -fɪz \

Kids Definition of sacrifice (Entry 1 of 2)

: the act or ceremony of making an offering to God or a god especially on an altar

: something offered as a religious act

: an act of giving up something especially for the sake of someone or something else // *We were happy to make a sacrifice of our time to help a friend in need.*

: something given up especially for the sake of helping others

sacrifice verb

sacrificed; sacrificing

Kids Definition of sacrifice (Entry 2 of 2)

: to offer or kill as a religious act // *The ancient ritual involved sacrificing an animal.*

: to give up (something) especially for the sake of something or someone else // *They sacrificed their lives for their country.*

More from Merriam-Webster on sacrifice

Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for sacrifice](#)

Nghlish: [Translation of sacrifice for Spanish Speakers](#)

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

Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about sacrifice](#)

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The same, but different

'Intra-' and 'Inter-': Getting Into It

Usage advice within

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Words of the week of 1/8/2021

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We're intent on clearing it up

'Nip it in the bud' or 'Nip it in the butt'?

We're gonna stop you right there

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