



# spiritualism noun

Save Word

spir-i-tu-al-izm | \ spir-i-chə-wə-lij-zəm |, -i-chə-lij-, -ich-wə-lij- \

## Definition of *spiritualism*

- 1 : the view that spirit is a prime element of reality
- 2
  - a : a belief that spirits of the dead communicate with the living usually through a medium
  - b *capitalized* : a movement comprising religious organizations emphasizing spiritualism

### Other Words from *spiritualism*

### Example Sentences

### Learn More about *spiritualism*

## Other Words from *spiritualism*

**spiritualist** \ spir-i-chə-wə-list |, -i-chə-list, -ich-wə-list \ *noun, often capitalized*

**spiritualistic** \ spir-i-chə-wə-lij-stik |, -i-chə-lij-, -ich-wə-lij- \ *adjective*

## Examples of *spiritualism* in a Sentence

### Recent Examples on the Web

// Wallace, who co-discovered natural selection, came to embrace *spiritualism* in his later years.

— Dan Falk, *Smithsonian Magazine*, "How Darwin's 'Descent of Man' Holds Up 150 Years After Publication," 25 Feb. 2021

// Over the years, Greeley had advocated vegetarianism, *spiritualism* and utopian socialism.

— Ron Grossman, *chicagotribune.com*, "Flashback: A crisis of conscience over slavery gave birth to a formidable political force: The Republican Party," 26 Feb. 2021

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'spiritualism.' 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 *spiritualism*

1749, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

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### Time Traveler for *spiritualism*

The first known use of *spiritualism* was in 1749

See more words from the same year

## Dictionary Entries near *spiritualism*

[spiritual bouquet](#)

[spiritual court](#)

[spiritual director](#)

**spiritualism**

[spirituality](#)

[spiritualize](#)

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## Statistics for *spiritualism*

### Last Updated

13 Mar 2021

### Look-up Popularity

Top 13% of words

## Cite this Entry

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Accessed 10 Apr. 2021.

Style: MLA

## More Definitions for *spiritualism*

## spiritualism noun

### English Language Learners Definition of *spiritualism*

: a belief that the spirits of dead people can communicate with living people

See the full definition for *spiritualism* in the [English Language Learners Dictionary](#)

## More from Merriam-Webster on *spiritualism*

Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for *spiritualism*

English: Translation of *spiritualism* for Spanish Speakers

Britannica.com: Encyclopedia article about *spiritualism*

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Words from the week of 4/9/2021	Book recommendations for your spring reading	They can spread more than disease	It won't take long to read

## ASK THE EDITORS

<b>'All Intensive Purposes' or 'All Intents and Purposes?'</b>	<b>'Nip it in the butt' or 'Nip it in the bud?'</b>	<b>Literally</b>	<b>Is Singular 'They' a Better Choice?</b>
We're intent on clearing it up	We're gonna stop you right there	How to use a word that (literally) drives some pe...	The awkward case of 'his or her'

## WORD GAMES

<b>The Exceptions Quiz III</b>	<b>Early Spring 2021 Words of the Day Quiz</b>	<b>Spell It</b>	<b>Word Winder's CrossWinder</b>
Which of these things doesn't belong?	A new challenger approaches.	Can you spell these 10 commonly misspelled words?	A game of winding words.
<a href="#">TAKE THE QUIZ &gt;</a>	<a href="#">TAKE THE QUIZ &gt;</a>	<a href="#">TAKE THE QUIZ &gt;</a>	<a href="#">PLAY THE GAME &gt;</a>

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