Estrena Todo lo que Quieras
Sears Mazatlan

libertine noun

/ˈlib-ər-ˌtēn, -ˌtīn /

1 **disparaging** : a freethinker especially in religious matters

2 : a person who is unrestrained by convention or morality
specifically : one leading a dissolute life
libertines indulging a variety of amorous impulses
— Ned Ehrlich

Examples libertine

Synonyms & Antonyms

"I only ask to be free." says Mr. Skimpole in Charles Dickens' *Bleak House*, and his words would undoubtedly have appealed to the world's first libertines. The word *libertine* in its original sense of having an attitude of moral promiscuity to describe a slave who had been freed, or a freedman, dates back to the 1500s. Its sense of a person who is free from the "Trendiness" sense of libertine was extended to freethinkers, both religious and secular, and later came to imply that an individual was a little too unrestrained, especially in matters of sexuality. The Latin root of libertine is *liber*, the ultimate source of our word *liberty*.

Synonyms

backslider
debauchee
debauchee
decadent
degenerate
deviate
perv
pervert
profligate
rake
rakehell
rip

See all Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus >

Examples

libertines of the royal court.

the legend of Don Juan depicts him as a playboy and libertine

Word History

Etymology

Middle English *libertyn* freedman, from Latin *libertinus*, from *libertinus*, adjective, of a freedman, from *libertus* freedman, from *liber* — see LIBERAL entry 1

First Known Use

1571, in the meaning defined at sense 1

Time Traveler

The first known use of libertine was in 1571

See more words from the same year

Word of the Day

8 Words for Men of El-Repute

Word of the Day

Merriam-Webster Word of the Day

libertine

SUBSCRIBE DOWNLOAD

0:00 / 0:46

Privacy Policy

Theme music by Joshua Scamper ©2006 New Jerusalem Music/ASCAP

Get Word of the Day delivered to your inbox!

Your email address Sign Up

Nearby Entries

libertinage
libertine
libertinism

See More Nearby Entries >

Cite this entry

Style: MLA

"Libertine." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/libertine. Accessed 8 Jan. 2023.

Copy Citation

Share

Facebook Twitter

Medical

libertine noun

/ˈlib-ər-ˌtēn , -ˌtīn /

1 : a person who leads an immoral life

Examples adjective

Translations

Spanish: Translation of libertine for Spanish Speakers

Love words? Need even more definitions?

Subscribe to Merriam-Webster Unabridged, and get thousands more definitions and advanced search—ad free!

MERRIAM-WEBSTER UNABRIDGED

WORD OF THE DAY
ascetic
See Definitions and Examples >
Get Word of the Day delivered!
Your email address SUBSCRIBE

WORD OF THE DAY
TEST YOUR VOCABULARY
Test your knowledge of confusable words
Which of these items is commonly used as a weapon?
Hockey stick | Wooden bat!
Fedora hat | Brogue shoes
You know what it looks like, but what is it called?
TAKE THE QUIZ ▶
Can you name 12 words that rhyme?
PLAY ▶

Words at Play

Every Letter Is Silent, Sometimes

When each letter can be seen but not heard

Great Big List of Beautiful and Useless Words, Vol. 1

Some may be more useful than others.

'Canceled' or 'Cancelled'?

One ↓ or two?

When Were Words First Used?

Look up any year to find out

Ask the Editors

Literally

How to use a word that (literally) drives some pe...

Is 'None' Singular or Plural?

Or both? Or neither?

Lay vs. Lie

Editor Emily Brewster clarifies the difference.

Ending a Sentence with a Preposition

An old fashioned rule we can no longer put up with.

Word Games

Name That Thing
MegaQuiz Vol. 4

Test your visual vocabulary!

TAKE THE QUIZ ▶

Top Words of 2022 Quiz

Fourteen words that helped define the year

TAKE THE QUIZ ▶

Name That Thing

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

TAKE THE QUIZ ▶

Spelling Bee Quiz

Can you outdo past winners of the National Spelli...

TAKE THE QUIZ ▶

Learn a new word every day. Delivered to your inbox!
Your email address SUBSCRIBE

Reserve Pelican Point Bonus Pool
CAPE CORAL REALTY