

human ^{1 of 2} adjective

hu·man (ˈhyū-mən) 'yü-
Synonyms of *human*

- 1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of humans (see **HUMAN** entry 2)
 - the *human* brain
 - human* voices
 - problems that have occurred throughout *human* history
- 2** : consisting of or involving humans
 - everyone held hands and made a *human* chain
 - human* interactions
 - human* spaceflight
- 3** **a** : having human form or attributes
 - the statue is more *human* than the beings at his feet
 - Clifton Fadiman
- b** : representative of or susceptible to the sympathies and frailties of human nature
 - human* kindness
 - a *human* weakness
 - such an inconsistency is very *human*
 - P. E. More

humanness (ˈhyū-mən-nəs) 'yü- noun

human ^{2 of 2} noun

: a bipedal primate mammal (*Homo sapiens*): a person : **MAN** **sense 1c** → usually plural

a disease that affects both *humans* and animals

incomprehensible to us *humans*

— William James

broadly: **HOMINID**

the least developed of all ancestral *humans*

— A. L. Kroeber

humanlike (ˈhyū-mən-lik) 'yü- adjective

Synonyms

Adjective			
earthborn	mortal	natural	
Noun			
baby	being	bird	
bod [British]	body	character	
cookie	cooky	creature	
customer	devil	duck	
egg	face	fish	
guy	head	human being	
individual	life	man	
mortal	party	person	
personage	scout	slob	
sort	soul	specimen	
stiff	thing	wight	

[See all Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus >](#)

Examples of *human* in a Sentence

Adjective

problems that have occurred throughout *human* history

She is a very kind and *human* person.

The dog's expression was almost *human*.

[See More >](#)

Recent Examples on the Web

Adjective

Three genes involved in immune rejection were knocked out, while six *human* genes responsible for immune acceptance were added.

— Emily Mullin, *WIRED*, 31 Oct. 2023

As Japan grapples with the consequences of dwindling natural predators, the nation sees an increasing encroachment of animals — like deer, wild boars, monkeys and bears — into *human* territories.

— Anthony Trotter, *ABC News*, 31 Oct. 2023

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

Word History

Etymology

Adjective and Noun

Middle English *humain*, from Anglo-French, from Latin *humanus*; akin to Latin *homo* human being — more at **HOMAGE**

First Known Use

Adjective

15th century, in the meaning defined at **sense 2**

Noun

1509, in the meaning defined **above**

Time Traveler

The first known use of **human** was in the 15th century

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

Phrases Containing *human*

a human chain

human being

human capital

human ecology

human chorionic gonadotropin

human contact

human engineering

human granulocytic ehrlichiosis

human granulocytic anaplasmosis

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Articles Related to *human*

6 Filthy Americanisms that Aren't...

And one that is

Dictionary Entries Near *human*

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human

human being

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Kids Definition

human ^{1 of 2} adjective

hu·man (ˈhyū-mən) 'yü-

1 : relating to or characteristic of human beings

especially: showing qualities typical of human beings

a *human* failing

2 : consisting of human beings

the *human* race

3 : having human form or characteristics

the dog's expression was almost *human*

humanness (-mən-nəs) noun

human ^{2 of 2} noun

: a human being

humanlike (-lik) adjective

Medical Definition

human ^{1 of 2} adjective

hu·man (ˈhyū-mən) (ˈyü-)

1 a : of, relating to, or characteristic of humans

the *human* body

human biochemistry

b : primarily or usually harbored by, affecting, or attacking humans

human diseases

human parasites

2 : being or consisting of humans

the *human* race

3 : consisting of members of the genus *Homo*

humanness (-mən-nəs) noun

human ^{2 of 2} noun

: a bipedal primate mammal of the genus *Homo* (*H. sapiens*)

broadly: any living or extinct member of the genus *Homo*

humanlike (-lik) adjective

More from Merriam-Webster on *human*

English: Translation of *human* for Spanish Speakers

Britannica English: Translation of *human* for Arabic Speakers

Britannica.com: Encyclopedia article about *human*

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