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man 1 of 4 noun

ˈman in compounds ˌman, or mən

plural men ˈmen in compounds ˌmen, or mən

Synonyms of man

1 a (1) : an individual human
especially : an adult male human
(2) : a man belonging to a particular category (as by birth, residence, membership, or occupation) → usually used in combination
| council*man*
(3) : HUSBAND
| I now pronounce you *man* and wife.
(4) : LOVER
| She was her *man*.
b : the human race : HUMANKIND
| the history of *man*
c : a bipedal primate mammal (*Homo sapiens*) that is anatomically related to the great apes but distinguished especially by notable development of the brain with a resultant capacity for articulate (see ARTICULATE entry 1 sense 1a) speech and abstract reasoning, and is the sole living representative of the hominid family
broadly : any living or extinct hominid
d (1) : one possessing in high degree the qualities considered distinctive of manhood (such as courage, strength, and vigor)
(2) obsolete : the quality or state of being manly : MANLINESS
e : FELLOW, CHAP → used as mode of familiar address
f → used interjectionally to express intensity of feeling
| *man*, what a game

2 a : INDIVIDUAL, PERSON
| a *man* could get killed there
b : the individual who can fulfill or who has been chosen to fulfill one's requirements
| she's your *man*

3 a : a feudal tenant : VASSAL
b : an adult male servant
c men plural : the working force as distinguished from the employer and usually the management
| The *men* have been on strike for several weeks.

4 a : one of the distinctive objects moved by each player in various board games
b : one of the players on a team
| nine *men* on each side

5 : an alumnus of or student at a college or university
| a Bowdoin *man*

6 Christian Science : the compound idea of infinite Spirit : the spiritual image and likeness of God : the full representation of Mind

7 often capitalized : POLICE
| when I heard the siren, I knew it was the *Man*
| — *Amer. Speech*

8 often capitalized : the white establishment : white society
| We should control anything that affects black people. Why should The *Man* control us?
| — Jimmy Denham

9 : one extremely fond of or devoted to something specified
| strictly a vanilla ice cream *man*

manless ˈman-ləs adjective
manlike ˈman-ˌlīk adjective

man 2 of 4 verb

manned; manning

transitive verb

1 a : to supply with people (as for service)
| *man* a fleet
b : to station members of a ship's crew at
| *man* the capstan
c : to serve in the force or complement of
| *man* the ticket booth

2 : to accustom (a bird, such as a hawk) to humans and the human environment

3 : to furnish with strength or powers of resistance : BRACE
| My hair bristled and my knees shook. I *manned* myself, however, and determined to return to my quarters.
| — Sir Walter Scott

man 3 of 4 abbreviation (1)

manual

Man 4 of 4 abbreviation (2)

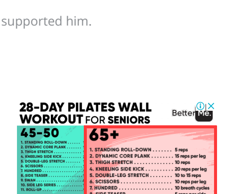
Manitoba

Phrases

as one man
: with the agreement and consent of all : UNANIMOUSLY
| The council voted *as one man*.

one's own man
: free from interference or control
| He left home and moved to the city to become *his own man*.

to a man
: without exception
| His friends, *to a man*, supported him.



Synonyms

Noun

bastard · bloke [*chiefly British*] · buck · cat · chap [*chiefly British*] · chappie [*British*] · dude · fella · fellow · galoot [*slang*] · gent · gentleman · guy · hombre · jack · joe · joker · lad · male

See all Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus

Examples of *man* in a Sentence

Noun
| He was a shy boy, but he grew to be a strong and confident *man*.
| He's a grown *man* now.
| The movie is popular with *men* and women.

See More

Recent Examples on the Web

Noun
| The sheriff's office circulated surveillance images depicting an armed *man*, believed to be the suspect, entering the bowling alley.
| — Elaine Quijano, *CBS News*, 26 Oct. 2023
| Then, at 7:08 p.m., the Auburn Communications Center received multiple calls that a *man* had gone into Schemengees Bar and Grille Restaurant in Lewiston and begun shooting.
| — Jonathan Dienst, *NBC News*, 26 Oct. 2023

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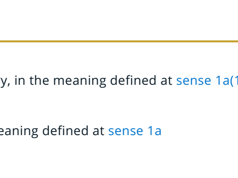
These examples are programmatically compiled from various online sources to illustrate current usage of the word 'man.' Any opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. Send us feedback about these examples.



Word History

Etymology

Noun and Verb
Middle English, from Old English *man, mon* human being, male human; akin to Old High German *man* human being, Sanskrit *manu*

First Known Use

Noun
before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1a(1)

Verb
12th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1a

Time Traveler

The first known use of *man* was before the 12th century

See more words from the same century

Phrases Containing *man*

advance man · a lady/man/gentleman of leisure · a man/woman/person to be reckoned with · a man/woman/person to reckon with · a man of the people · a man/woman/person of substance · as one man · big man on campus · a marked man/woman

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Kids Definition

man 1 of 2 noun

ˈman

plural men ˈmen

1 a : a human being
especially : an adult male human
b : the human race : HUMANKIND
c : HUSBAND entry 1, LOVER
d : a primate mammal that walks on two legs and is the only living member of the hominid family
also : any living or extinct hominid
e → used as an interjection to express strong feeling
| *man*, what a game
f : FELLOW → used as a mode of familiar address

2 a : a tenant in the Middle Ages : VASSAL
b : an adult male servant
c plural : workers as a group

3 a : INDIVIDUAL entry 2 sense 2, PERSON
| a *man* could be killed there
b : a person who can or is chosen to fulfill one's requirements
| she's your *man*

4 : one of the pieces in a game (as chess)

man 2 of 2 verb

manned; manning

1 : to supply with people (as for service)
| *man* a ship

2 : to station members of a ship's crew at
| *man* the ropes

3 : to serve in the force of
| *man* the ticket counter

Etymology

Noun
Old English *man* "person, male person"

Medical Definition

man noun

ˈman

plural men ˈmen

: a bipedal primate mammal of the genus *Homo* (*H. sapiens*) that is anatomically related to the great apes (family Pongidae) but is distinguished by greater development of the brain with resulting capacity for articulate speech and abstract reasoning, by marked erectness of body carriage with corresponding alteration of muscular balance and loss of prehensile powers of the fingers of the foot, and by shortening of the arm with accompanying increase in thumb size and ability to place the thumb next to each of the fingers, that is usually considered to occur in a variable number of freely interbreeding races, and that is the sole living representative of the family Hominidae
broadly : any living or extinct member of the family Hominidae

More from Merriam-Webster on *man*

Nglish: Translation of *man* for Spanish Speakers
Britannica English: Translation of *man* for Arabic Speakers

Last Updated: 29 Oct 2023 - Updated example sentences

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QUERRÁS LLEVARTE TODO
DEL 17 AL 20 DE NOVIEMBRE
SEARS
Buen Fin
Sears
Mazatlán 11:00 – 21:00
WORD OF THE DAY
requisite
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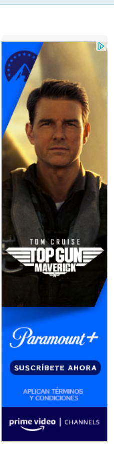

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Can you solve 4 words at once?
Play

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You can make only 12 words. Pick the best ones!
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Spelling Bee Quiz
Can you outdo past winners of the National Spelli...
Take the quiz

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