

Dictionary (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/random>)

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random

(<https://www.facebook.com/dictionarycom>)

random (<http://static.sfdict.com/staticrep/dictaudio/R00/R0056000.mp3>)

[**ran-duh** m]

Synonyms Examples Word Origin

adjective

1. proceeding, made, or occurring without definite aim, reason, or pattern:
"the random selection of numbers."
2. *Statistics.* of or characterizing a process of selection in which each item of a set has an equal probability of being chosen.
3. *Building Trades.*
 - a. (of building materials) lacking uniformity of dimensions:
"random shingles."
 - b. (of ashlar) laid without continuous courses.
 - c. constructed or applied without regularity:
"random bond."
4. *Informal.*
 - a. unknown, unidentified, or out of place:
"A couple of random guys showed up at the party."
 - b. odd and unpredictable in an amusing way:
"my totally random life."

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of the Day i

noun

5. *Chiefly British*, bank (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/bank>)³(def 7b).

adverb

6. *Building Trades*. without uniformity:
"random-sized slates."

Idioms

7. **at random**, without definite aim, purpose, method, or adherence to a prior arrangement; in a haphazard way:
"Contestants were chosen at random from the studio audience."

Origin

sh

dictionary.reference.com/browse/Middle%20English
['dictionary.reference.com/browse/Old%20French](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Old%20French)

Germanic

(<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Germanic>)

1275-1325

1275-1325; Middle English *raundon*, *random* < Old French *randon*, derivative of *randir* to gallop
 < Germanic

Related forms

randomly, adverb

randomness, noun

nonrandom, adjective

nonrandomly, adverb

nonrandomness, noun

Synonyms

1. haphazard, chance, fortuitous.

Dictionary.com Unabridged

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Examples from the web for random

Although they were paid for their keen insights into world affairs, they often performed worse than *random* chance.

Some always look good due to *random* chance in every process with lots of *random* factors.

If it were, then *random* chance would make it pretty unlikely to have it on the side tipped toward us.

British Dictionary definitions for random

random

/ˈrændəm/

adjective

1. lacking any definite plan or prearranged order; haphazard *a random selection*
2. (**statistics**)
 - a. having a value which cannot be determined but only described probabilistically *a random variable*
 - b. chosen without regard to any characteristics of the individual members of the population so that each has an equal chance of being selected *random sampling*
3. (**informal**) (of a person) unknown *some random guy waiting for a bus*

noun

4. **at random**, in a purposeless fashion; not following any prearranged order

Derived Forms

randomly, adverb

randomness, noun

Word Origin

C14: from Old French *randon*, from *randir* to gallop, of Germanic origin; compare Old High German *rinnan* to run

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Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012

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Word Origin and History for random

adj.

"having no definite aim or purpose," 1650s, from *at random* (1560s), "at great speed" (thus, "carelessly, haphazardly"), alteration of Middle English noun *randon* "impetuosity, speed" (c.1300), from Old French *randon* "rush, disorder, force, impetuosity," from *randir* "to run fast," from Frankish **rant* "a running" or some other Germanic source, from Proto-Germanic **randa* (cf. Old High German *rennen* "to run," Old English *rinnan* "to flow, to run;" see run (/browse/run) (v.)).

In 1980s U.S. college student slang it began to acquire a sense of "inferior, undesirable." (A 1980 William Safire column describes it as a college slang noun meaning "person who does not belong on our dormitory floor.") *Random access* in reference to computer memory is recorded from 1953. Related: *Randomly*; *randomness*.

Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2010 Douglas Harper

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random in Science

random

(<http://static.sfdict.com/dictstatic/dictionary/audio/ahsd/R/R0006800.mp3>)

(rān'dəm) (<http://content.dictionary.com/help/dictionary/ahsd/pronkey.html>)

1. Relating to a type of circumstance or event that is described by a probability distribution.
2. Relating to an event in which all outcomes are equally likely, as in the testing of a blood sample for the presence of a substance.

The American Heritage® Science Dictionary

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random in Technology

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