

# tracer

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## Nearby Words

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- traceably
- traceless
- tracer**
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- tracer bullet
- tracer-ammunition

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## tracer

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### Tracer

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## Example sentences

In all cases, turbulence in the fluid tends to diffuse, or mix out the **tracer**.

At dusk, a single **tracer** bullet was seen fired from the lifeboat.

## trac·er [trey-ser]

[Show IPA](#)

### noun

- a person or thing that traces.
- a person whose business or work is the tracing of missing property, parcels, persons, etc.
- an inquiry sent from point to point to trace a missing shipment, parcel, or the like, as in a transportation system.
- any of various devices for tracing drawings, plans, etc.
- Also called **tracer ammunition**. ammunition containing a chemical substance that causes a projectile to trail smoke or fire so as to make its path visible and indicate a target to other firers, especially at night.

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- [What Is A Skip Tracer?](#)
- [What Is A Circuit Tracer?](#)
- [What Is A Tracer?](#)
- [What Is Intrinsic Tracer?](#)

### Origin:

1535-45; trace<sup>1</sup> + -er<sup>1</sup>

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## World English Dictionary

Collins

### tracer ('treɪsə)

#### — n

- a person or thing that traces
- a.a. a projectile that can be observed when in flight by the burning of chemical substances in its base  
b. ammunition consisting of such projectiles  
c. ( *as modifier* ): *tracer fire*
- med* any radioactive isotope introduced into the body to study metabolic processes, absorption, etc, by following its progress through the body with a gamma camera or other detector
- an investigation to trace missing cargo, mail, etc

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## Medical Dictionary

American Heritage

### tracer trac·er (trā'sər) n.

A substance, such as a dye or a radioactive isotope, that is introduced into and followed through a biological or chemical process, by virtue of its radioactive signature, color, or other distinguishing physical property, thus providing information on the course of the process or on the components or events involved.

## Related Words

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| radiotracer   | chlorine 36 |
| tracer bullet | chromium 51 |
| antimony 124  | horseradish |
| barium 140    | peroxidase  |
| carbon 13     | radioiron   |
| carrier-free  | radiosodium |
|               | scintigram  |

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## Quote Of The Day

*"The past is only the present become invisible and mute; and because it is invisible and mu..."*

-Mary Webb

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Microsoft

An instrument used in dissecting out nerves and blood vessels.

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## Science Dictionary

*American Heritage*

**tracer** (trā'sər) [Pronunciation Key](#)

An identifiable substance, such as a dye or radioactive isotope, that can be followed through the course of a mechanical, chemical, or biological process. Tracers are used in **radioimmunoassays** and other laboratory testing. The use of radioactive [iodine](#), for example, can give information about thyroid gland [metabolism](#). Also called *label* .

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## Encyclopedia

*Encyclopedia Britannica*

**tracer**

detectable substance added to a chemical, biological, or physical system to follow its process or to study distribution of the substance in the system. Tracer dyes have long been used to follow the flow of underground streams. Incendiary rounds included at intervals in a belt of machine-gun bullets make the paths of the bullets visible. In scientific work, the use of tracers has increased and, because of the sensitivity of modern methods, has helped solve many problems. Particularly effective modern methods utilize [isotopic tracers](#). See isotopic tracer.

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