

alert

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Nearby Words

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Synonyms

- intelligent
- circumspect
- perceptive
- admonition
- observant
- vigilant
- watchful

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a·lert [uh-lurt]

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adjective

- fully aware and attentive; wide-awake; keen: *an alert mind.*
- swift; agile; nimble.

noun

- an attitude of vigilance, readiness, or caution, as before an expected attack.
- a warning or alarm of an impending military attack, a storm, etc.: *We'd just boarded the bus when the alert sounded.*
- the period during which such a warning or alarm is in effect.

Relevant Questions

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verb (used with object)

- to warn (troops, ships, etc.) to prepare for action.
- to warn of an impending raid, attack, storm, etc.: *The radio alerted coastal residents to prepare for the hurricane.*
- to advise or warn; cause to be on guard: *to alert gardeners to the dangers of some pesticides.*

Idioms

- on the alert**, on guard against danger; in readiness; vigilant: *The state police are on the alert for an escaped convict believed to be in the area.*

Origin:

1590–1600; 1940–45 for def 4; < Italian all'erta, equivalent to all (a) to, on the + erta lookout, watchtower, orig. feminine of erto, past participle of ergere < Latin erigere to erect

Related forms

a·lert·ly, *adverb*

a·lert·ness, *noun*

hy·per·a·lert, *adjective*

un·a·lert·ed, *adjective*

Synonyms

1. awake, wary, observant. Alert, vigilant, watchful imply a wide-awake attitude, as of someone keenly aware of his or her surroundings. Alert describes a ready and prompt attentiveness together with a quick intelligence: *The tourist was alert and eager to see the sights.* Vigilant suggests some immediate necessity for keen, active observation, and for continuing alertness: *Knowing the danger, the scout was unceasingly vigilant.* Watchful suggests carefulness and preparedness: *watchful waiting.* **2.** brisk, lively, quick, active.

Example sentences

They can map out physical dangers and act as early-warning systems to **alert**

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Bob held the stage with his actor's baritone and theatrical chuckle, his eyes

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Related Words

- yellow alert
- blue alert
- red alert
- white alert
- Amber Alert
- sharp
- airborne alert
- ground alert
- air alert
- air-raid warden
- alive
- all-points bulletin

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Idioms & Phrases

on the **alert**

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*"Children are extraordinarily precious members of society; they are exquisitely **alert**, sensitive, and conscious of their surroundings; and they are extraordinarily vulnerable to maltreatment or emotional abuse by adults who refuse to give them the profound respect and affection to which they are unconditionally entitled."*

thor

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- 1.** unaware.

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