



definitions



occasional



"It's cheaper than Westlaw, but that's not why I use it. I use Casetext because it's better than Westlaw."

– Small Firm Att

# occasional

[ uh-key-zhuh-nl ]

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## *adjective*

- 1 occurring or appearing at irregular or infrequent intervals; occurring now and then  
*an occasional headache.*
- 2 intended for supplementary use when needed:  
*an occasional chair.*
- 3 pertaining to, arising out of, or intended for the [occasion](#):  
*occasional verses.*
- 4 acting or serving for the [occasion](#) or only on particular [occasions](#).
- 5 serving as the [occasion](#) or incidental cause.

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## NEARBY WORDS

[occam](#), [occam's razor](#), [occam](#), [william of](#), [occas.](#), [occasion](#), **occasional**, [occasional licence](#), [oc](#)  
[occasionalism](#), [occasionally](#), [occasions](#)

## ORIGIN OF OCCASIONAL

First recorded in 1560–70; [occasion](#) + [-al](#)<sup>1</sup>

## RELATED FORMS

**oc·ca·sion·al·ness**, **oc·ca·sion·al·i·ty**, noun

**un·oc·ca·sion·al**, adjective

**un·oc·ca·sion·al·ly**, adverb

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### EXAMPLES FROM THE WEB FOR OCCASIONAL

Contrary to what you may assume about me, I actually enjoy the *occasional* trip to the mall.

IT'S ALWAYS BLACK FRIDAY FOR CLERKS | MICHAEL TOMASKY | NOVEMBER 28, 2014 | DAILY BEAST

*Occasional*, more traditional efforts have met with success—the Big Apple Circus and lingering small

WE'RE ALL CARNIES NOW: WHY WE CAN'T QUIT THE CIRCUS | ANTHONY PALETTA | NOVEMBER 27, 2014 | DAILY BEAST

And, again, I now confess, I had an *occasional* Bourbon and stogie on the cuff.

UP TO A POINT: IN DEFENSE OF LOBBYISTS | P. J. O'ROURKE | OCTOBER 25, 2014 | DAILY BEAST

Manning's antics have earned him inches in print and *occasional* spots on television.

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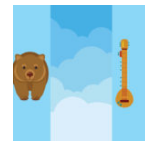
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### BRITISH DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS FOR OCCASIONAL

# occasional

 / (ə'keɪʒənəl) /

## *adjective*

- 1 taking place from time to time; not frequent or regular
- 2 of, for, or happening on special occasions
- 3 serving as an occasion (for something)

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## WORD ORIGIN AND HISTORY FOR OCCASIONAL

# occasional

adj.

late 14c., "occurring now and then," from [occasion](#) (n.) + [-al](#) (1). Meaning "casual" is 1560s. Meaning "pertaining to a particular occasion" is from 1630s. Of furniture, etc., from 1749.

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