



definitions



occasion



occasion

 [uh-key-zhuhn] [SHOW IPA](#) [SYNONYMS](#) | [EXAMPLES](#) | [WORD ORIGIN](#) | [IDIOMS](#)[SEE MORE SYNONYMS FOR occasion](#)

noun

- 1 a particular time, especially as marked by certain circumstances or occurrence
They met on three occasions.
- 2 a special or important time, event, ceremony, celebration, etc.:
His birthday will be quite an occasion.
- 3 a convenient or favorable time, opportunity, or juncture:
This slack period would be a good occasion to take inventory.
- 4 the immediate or incidental cause or reason for some action or result:
What is the occasion for this uproar?
- 5 (in the philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead) the coincidence of the eternal ob-
specific point-event.

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verb (used with object)

- 7 to give occasion or cause for; bring about.

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Pi is the Latin name of the sixteenth Greek letter, π. But,

π is also the Greek letter for pi, the mathematical constant. It is named after the Greek letter π because it is the 16th letter of the Greek alphabet.

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Idioms

- 8 **on occasion**, now and then; from time to time; occasionally:
She visits New York on occasion.

ORIGIN OF OCCASION

1350–1400; Middle English *occasioun* < Old French *occasion* < Latin *occāsiōn-* (stem of *occās. oc-* **oc-** + *cās(us)* (past participle of *cadere* to fall, befall) + *-iōn-* **-ion**)

SYNONYMS FOR OCCASION

- 3 [chance](#), [opening](#).
- 4 [motive](#), [inducement](#), [influence](#).
- 7 [motivate](#), [originate](#), [produce](#), [create](#).

SEE MORE SYNONYMS FOR *occasion* ON THESAURUS.COM

RELATED FORMS

pre·oc·ca·sioned, adjective

SYNONYM STUDY

4. See [cause](#).

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EXAMPLES FROM THE WEB FOR OCCASION

To Hitchcock, this is not a sweet wire from an old colleague but a condolence letter on the *occasion* of ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S FADE TO BLACK: THE GREAT DIRECTOR'S FINAL DAYS | DAVID FREEMAN | DECEMBER 13, 2014 | DAILY BEAST

It was also an *occasion* for voluptuary displays of tough-mindedness.

THE MEDIA'S PRO-TORTURE CHEERLEADERS | JEDEDIAH PURDY | DECEMBER 10, 2014 | DAILY BEAST

But the *occasion* is even more special when you can cheers with some funky flutes.

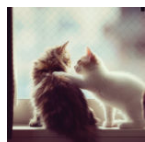
THE DAILY BEAST'S 2014 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE: FOR THE CARRIE BRADSHAW IN YOUR LIFE | ALLISON MCNEARNEY | NOVEMBER 29, 2014

The government defines excessive drinking as drinking too much on one *occasion* over the course of AMERICANS DRINK TOO MUCH, BUT WE'RE NOT ALL ALCOHOLICS | GABRIELLE GLASER | NOVEMBER 25, 2014 | DAILY BEAST

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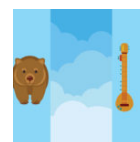
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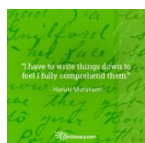
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BRITISH DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS FOR OCCASION

occasion / (ə'keɪʒən) /

noun

- 1 *(sometimes foll by of)* the time of a particular happening or event
- 2 *(sometimes foll by for)* a reason or cause (to do or be something); grounds: *the occasion to complain*
- 3 an opportunity (to do something); chance
- 4 a special event, time, or celebration: *the party was quite an occasion*

5 **on occasion** every so often

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verb

8 (*tr*) to bring about, esp incidentally or by chance

See also [occasions](#)

WORD ORIGIN FOR OCCASION

C14: from Latin *occāsiō* a falling down, from *occidere*, from *ob-* down + *cadere* to fall

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WORD ORIGIN AND HISTORY FOR OCCASION (1 OF 2)

occasion

n.

late 14c., "opportunity; grounds for action, state of affairs that makes something else possible; a happy occurrence," from Old French *ochaison*, *ocasion* "cause, reason, excuse, pretext; opportunity" (13c.) & Latin *occasionem* (nominative *occasio*) "opportunity, appropriate time," in Late Latin "cause," from *oc* past participle of *occidere* "fall down, go down," from *ob* "down, away" (see [ob-](#)) + *cadere* "to fall" (see notion is of a "falling together," or juncture, of circumstances.

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SEE MORE ORIGINS



IDIOMS AND PHRASES WITH OCCASION

occasion

see on occasion; rise to the occasion.

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