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explore

[verb](#)

ex·plore | \ ɪk- 'splɔːr \ 
 explored; exploring

Definition of *explore*

[transitive verb](#)

1a : to investigate, study, or analyze : look into explore the relationship between social class and leadership with indirect questions to explore where ethical issues arise— R. T. Blackburn
b : to become familiar with by testing or experimenting explore new cuisines

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- 2 : to travel over (new territory) for adventure or discovery
 3 : to examine especially for diagnostic purposes explore the wound

[intransitive verb](#)

: to make or conduct a systematic search explore for oil

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Synonyms for *explore*

Synonyms

[delve \(into\)](#), [dig \(into\)](#), [examine](#), [inquire \(into\)](#), [investigate](#), [look \(into\)](#), [probe](#), [research](#)

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Examples of *explore* in a Sentence

Researchers are *exploring* how language is acquired by children. The book *explores* a number of controversial issues.

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Recent Examples on the Web

There's nothing like *exploring* the world with your girls and creating priceless memories. — [Danielle Pointdujour, *Essence*, "Black Travel Vibes: This Girl Squad's Cancun Trip Was A Vibe," 9 Aug. 2019](#) Her novels and essays, *exploring* black communities with intimacy and imagination, took in the legacy of slavery, the rejection of Reconstruction, the brutalities of Jim Crow—the whole of American history. — [David Remnick, *The New Yorker*, "What Toni Morrison Understood About Hate," 9 Aug. 2019](#)

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'explore.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#).

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First Known Use of *explore*

1531, in the meaning defined at [transitive sense 1a](#)

History and Etymology for *explore*

Latin *explorare*, from *ex-* + *plorare* to cry out

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The first known use of *explore* was in 1531

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More Definitions for *explore*

explore

verb




English Language Learners Definition of *explore*

- : to look at (something) in a careful way to learn more about it
- : to study or analyze (something)
- : to talk or think about (something) in a thoughtful and detailed way
- : to learn about (something) by trying it

[See the full definition for *explore* in the English Language Learners Dictionary](#)

explore

verb

ex·plore | \ ik- 'splôr \ 
 explored; exploring

Kids Definition of *explore*

- 1 : to search through or into : study closely Doctors *explored* the spread of the disease.
- 2 : to go into or through for purposes of discovery or adventure *explore* a cave

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Other Words from *explore*

explorer \ ik- 'splōr-ər \ noun

explore


[transitive verb](#)

ex·plore | \ ik- 'splō(ə)r, - 'splô(ə)r  \
explored; exploring

Medical Definition of *explore*

: to examine (as by surgery) especially for diagnostic purposes the abdomen may need to be *explored* surgically— Donald Caslow

Other Words from *explore*

exploration \ , ek-splə- 'rā-shən  \ noun

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Comments on *explore*

What made you want to look up *explore*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

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WORD OF THE DAY

brandish 

to shake or wave menacingly

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