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# Dressing (medical)

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A dressing is a sterile pad or compress[1] applied to a wound to promote healing and protect the wound from further harm. A dressing is designed to be in direct contact with the wound, as distinguished from a bandage, which is most often used to hold a dressing in place. Many modern dressings are self-adhesive.





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ᇷ An adhesive island dressing, in its original packaging (left) and on a person's wrist (right).

#### Medical uses [edit]

A dressing can have a number of purposes, depending on the type, severity and position of the wound, although all purposes are focused towards promoting recovery and protecting from further harm. Key purposes of a dressing are:

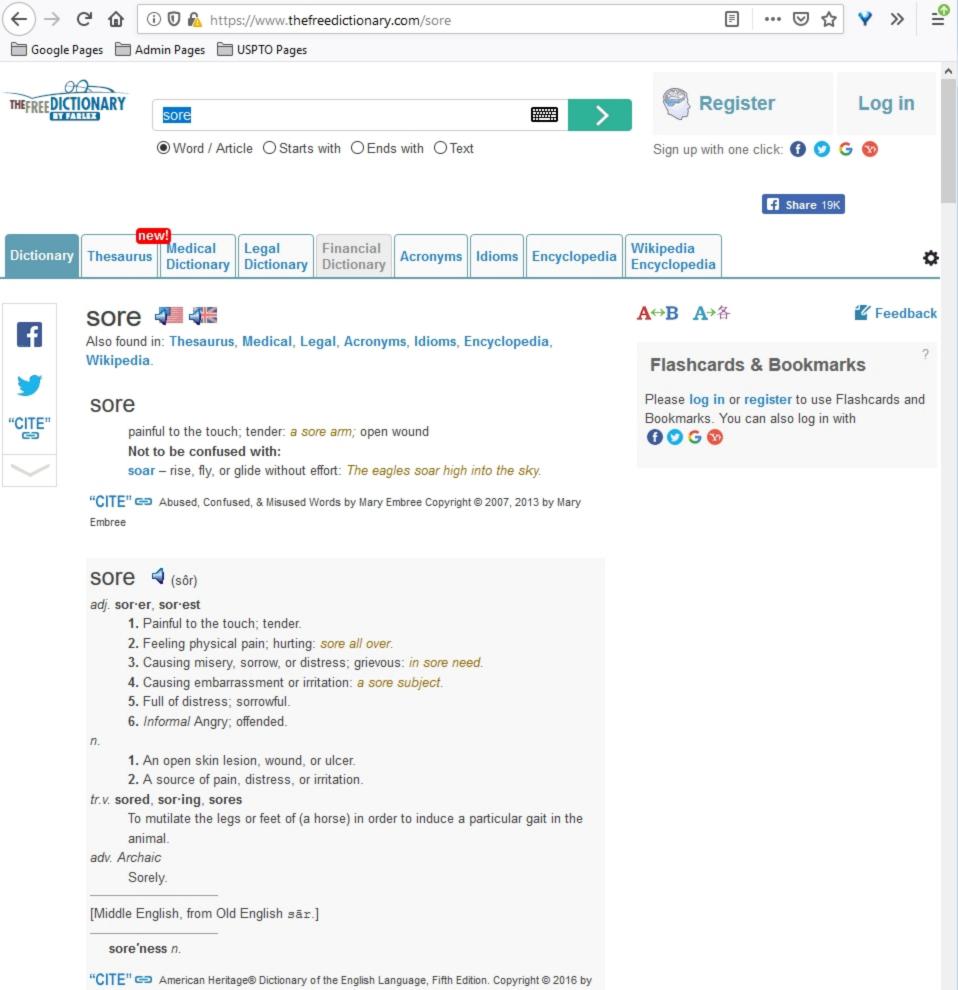
- Stem bleeding to help to seal the wound to expedite the clotting process;
- Protection from infection to defend the wound against germs and mechanical damage;
- Absorb exudate to soak up blood, plasma, and other fluids exuded from the wound, containing it/them in one place and preventing maceration;
- Debride the wound to remove slough and foreign objects from the wound to expedite healing;
- Reduce psychological stress to obscure a healing wound from the view of the patient and others.

Ultimately, the aim of a dressing is to promote healing of the wound by providing a sterile, breathable and moist environment that facilitates granulation and epithelialization. This will then reduce the risk of infection, help the wound heal more quickly, and reduce scarring.[2]

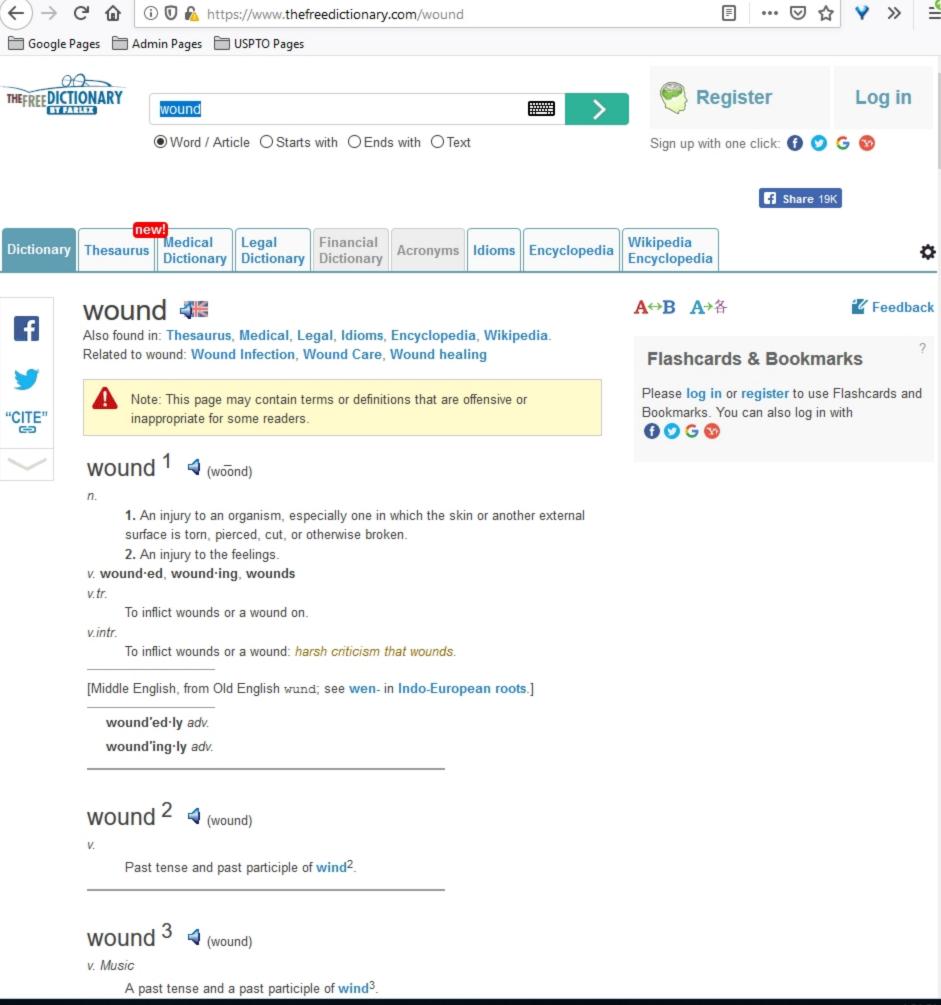
### Types [edit]

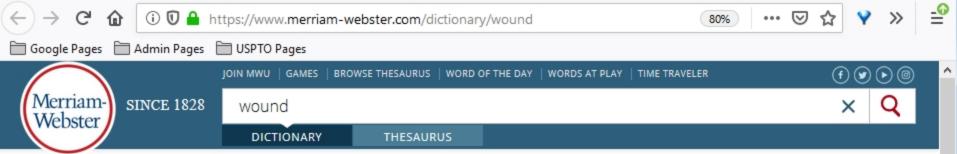
Historically, dressings were made of a piece of material, usually a cloth, but the use of cobwebs, dung, leaves and honey have also been described





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# wound noun

#### Definition of wound (Entry 1 of 3)

- 1 a : an injury to the body (as from violence, accident, or surgery) that typically involves laceration or breaking of a membrane (such as the skin) and usually damage to underlying tissues
  - a cut or breach in a plant usually due to an external agent
- 2 : a mental or emotional hurt or blow
- 3 : something resembling a wound in appearance or effect especially: a rift in or blow to a political body or social group

## wound verb

\ 'wünd ௵, archaic or dialectal 'waund\

wounded; wounding; wounds

#### Definition of wound (Entry 2 of 3)

transitive verb

: to cause a wound to or in

intransitive verb

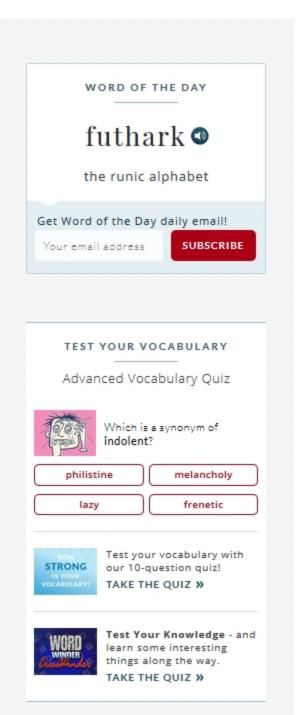
: to inflict a wound

## wound

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#### Definition of wound (Entry 3 of 3)

past tense and past participle of WIND



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