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# ladder

[noun](#), often attributive

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lad·der | \ 'la-dər  \

## Definition of *ladder*

1 : a structure for climbing up or down that consists essentially of two long sidepieces joined at intervals by crosspieces on which one may step


2 : something that resembles or suggests a ladder in form or use especially : [run sense 11a](#)

3 : a series of usually ascending steps or stages : [scale](#) climbing up the corporate ladder

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## Other Words from *ladder*

ladderlike \ 'la-dər-, līk  \ adjective

## Synonyms for *ladder*

Synonyms

- [graduation](#),
- [hierarchy](#),
- [ordering](#),
- [ranking](#),
- [scale](#)

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## Examples of *ladder* in a Sentence

He was moving up the corporate *ladder*. She worked her way up from the lowest rung on the economic *ladder*.

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Recent Examples on the Web Some fans posted up behind center field and peered through the fence; others stood on *ladders* to get a better view. — [Chris Lamb, \*The Conversation\*, "This isn't the first time sports teams have played in eerily empty arenas," 12 Mar. 2020](#) The crane was being assembled when the operator slipped and fell on a stationary *ladder*, Maggiolo said. — [Martin Weil, \*Washington Post\*, "Injured crane operator rescued by D.C. firefighters, fire department says," 23 Feb. 2020](#)

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## First Known Use of *ladder*

before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

## History and Etymology for *ladder*

Middle English, from Old English *hlæder*; akin to Old High German *leitara* ladder, Old English *hlinian* to lean — more at [lean](#)

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Time Traveler for *ladder*



## The first known use of *ladder* was before the 12th century

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[rope ladder](#)

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More Definitions for *ladder*

ladder

*noun*




## English Language Learners Definition of *ladder*

: a device used for climbing that has two long pieces of wood, metal, or rope with a series of steps or rungs between them  
: a series of steps or stages by which someone moves up to a higher or better position  
British : a long hole in a stocking

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

ladder

[noun](#)

lad·der | \ 'la-dər  \

## Kids Definition of *ladder*

: a device used for climbing usually consisting of two long pieces of wood, rope, or metal joined at short distances by horizontal pieces on which a person may step

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