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ladder X

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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

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



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 <u>lean</u>

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Time Traveler for ladder



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

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ladang

<u>ladanum</u>

<u>ladder</u>

ladder-back

ladder-backed

ladder chain

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rope ladder

Statistics for ladder

Last Updated

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More Definitions for *ladder*

ladder

<u>noun</u>



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

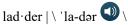
: a series of steps or stages by which someone moves up to a higher or better position

British: a long hole in a stocking

See the full definition for ladder in the English Language Learners Dictionary

ladder

noun



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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