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beauty

DICTIONARY | THESAURUS

# beauty noun

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beau·ty | \ 'byū-tē \

plural **beauties**

## Definition of beauty

- : the quality or aggregate of qualities in a person or thing that gives pleasure to the senses or pleasurably exalts the mind or spirit : LOVELINESS  
*// a woman of great physical beauty*  
*// exploring the natural beauty of the island*  
*// A thing of beauty is a joy forever ...*  
 — John Keats
- : a beautiful person or thing  
*// His new car's a real beauty.*  
*especially* : a beautiful woman  
*// She was a great beauty in her day.*
- : a particularly graceful, ornamental, or excellent quality  
*// Well, at any rate, he had two great beauties—the pale flat white of his skin and his great shaggy mass of dark hair.*  
 — Dorothy C. Fisher
- : a brilliant, extreme, or egregious example or instance  
*// caught a couple of beauties on our last fishing trip*  
*// that mistake was a beauty*
- : **BOTTOM** sense 9

↓ Synonyms & Antonyms

↓ More Example Sentences

↓ Learn More about beauty

## Synonyms & Antonyms for beauty

### Synonyms

aesthetics (also esthetics), attractiveness, beauteousness, beautifulness, comeliness, cuteness, fairness, gorgeousness, handsomeness, looks, loveliness, prettiness, sightliness

### Antonyms

grotesqueness, hideousness, homeliness, plainness, ugliness, unattractiveness, unbecomingness, unloveliness, unsightliness

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## Examples of beauty in a Sentence

*// We explored the natural beauty of the island.*

*// I'm learning to appreciate the beauty of poetry.*

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## Recent Examples on the Web

*// The beauty of it was, kids didn't realize the show was priming them for school.*  
 — Dawn Mitchell, *Indianapolis Star*, "When 'Kindergarten College' helped kids get ready for school (without feeling like work)," 9 Jan. 2020

*// But women are braced for the exodus of skin-plumping collagen from our faces well before that, thanks to the beauty industry.*  
 — Jessica Iredale, *WSJ*, "Got Body Wrinkles? These New Procedures Might Help," 4 Jan. 2020

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'beauty.' 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 beauty

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What did focus mean in Latin?

hearth diameter boundary square

SPELL IT Can you spell these 10 commonly misspelled words? TAKE THE QUIZ »

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14th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1

### History and Etymology for *beauty*

Middle English *beaute, bealte*, borrowed from Anglo-French, from *bel, beau* "beautiful, good-looking" (going back to Latin *bellus*) + *-te -TY* — more at *BEAU*

## Learn More about *beauty*

### Share *beauty*



### Time Traveler for *beauty*

The first known use of *beauty* was in the 14th century

See more words from the same century

### Dictionary Entries near *beauty*

beautiful people  
beautify  
beautifying  
**beauty**  
beautyberry  
beauty bush  
beauty contest

See More Nearby Entries

### Phrases Related to *beauty*

*beauty* is in the eye of the beholder  
the *beauty* part

### Statistics for *beauty*

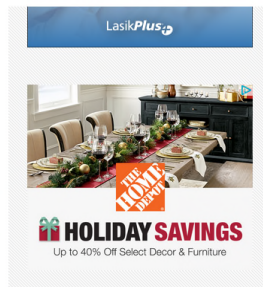
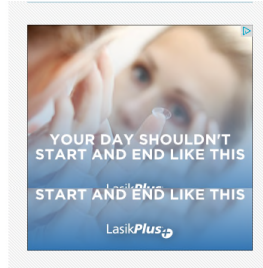
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## More Definitions for *beauty*

### *beauty* noun



#### English Language Learners Definition of *beauty*

- : the quality of being physically attractive
- : the qualities in a person or a thing that give pleasure to the senses or the mind
- : a beautiful woman

See the full definition for *beauty* in the English Language Learners Dictionary

### *beauty* noun

beau·ty | \ ˈbyū-tē \  
plural *beauties*

#### Kids Definition of *beauty*

- : the qualities of a person or a thing that give pleasure to the senses or to the mind  
// the *beauty* of the landscape  
// a person of great *beauty*
- : a beautiful or excellent person or thing  
// That car is a real *beauty*.

### More from Merriam-Webster on *beauty*

Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for *beauty*  
Rhyming Dictionary: Words that rhyme with *beauty*  
Spanish Central: Translation of *beauty*



English: Translation of *beauty* for Spanish Speakers  
Britannica English: Translation of *beauty* for Arabic Speakers  
Britannica.com: Encyclopedia article about *beauty*

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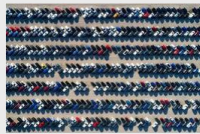
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A whole lot of sense



#### New Words of the 1920s

A collection of words turning 100 this decade



#### Checking In with 'Check' and 'Cheque'

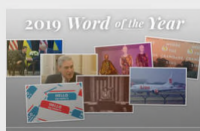
Our endorsement for each.



#### An Analysis of 'Dream'

We interpret its history.

### ASK THE EDITORS



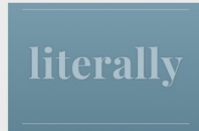
#### 2019 Word of the Year: Behind the Scenes

How we chose 'they'



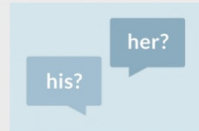
#### Is It 'Hanger' or 'Hangar'?

How to remember which is which



#### Literally

How to use a word that (literally) drives some people



#### Is Singular 'They' a Better Choice?

The awkward case of 'his or her'

### WORD GAMES



#### Intact Latin Quiz

What did each of these words mean to ancient Romans?

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Do you know these words that come from names?

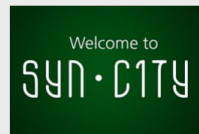
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