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Mafia



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Mafia

[noun](#)

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Ma·fia | \ 'mä-fē-ə , 'ma- \

Definition of *Mafia*

(Entry 1 of 2)

1a : a secret criminal society of Sicily or Italy


b : a similarly conceived criminal organization in the U.S. also : a similar organization elsewhere the Japanese Mafia

c : a criminal organization associated with a particular traffic the cocaine Mafia

2 often not capitalized : a group of people likened to the Mafia especially : a group of people of similar interests or backgrounds prominent in a particular field or enterprise : [clique](#)

Mafia

geographical name

Ma·fia | \ 'mä-fē-ə , 'ma- \

Definition of *Mafia* (Entry 2 of 2)

island of Tanzania in the Indian Ocean south of Zanzibar *area* 170 square miles (442 square kilometers), *population* 16,748

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Synonyms for *Mafia*

Synonyms: Noun

- [cabal](#),
- [conspiracy](#),
- [crew](#),
- [gang](#),
- [mob](#),
- [ring](#),
- [syndicate](#)

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Examples of *Mafia* in a Sentence

Noun a member of *the Mafia* He's an important figure in the television *mafia*.

First Known Use of *Mafia*

Noun

1866, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

History and Etymology for *Mafia*

Noun

Mafia, *Maffia*, a Sicilian secret criminal society, from Italian dialect (Sicily), probably from *mafiusu*

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Time Traveler for *Mafia*



The first known use of *Mafia* was in 1866

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More Definitions for *Mafia*

Mafia

noun



English Language Learners Definition of *Mafia*

: a secret criminal organization in Italy

: a similar criminal organization in the U.S.

: a group of closely connected people who have great power or influence in a particular field or business

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More from Merriam-Webster on *Mafia*

Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for *Mafia*](#)

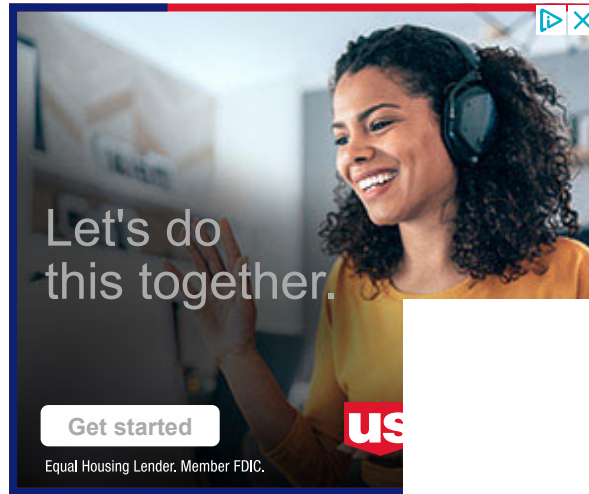
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- Which of the following best describes an easily irritated person?

superficial

flashy

gregarious

tetchy

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-

The Words of the Week -
8/21/20

Words from the week of 8/21/2020

•

Fun With Sports-Team
Names

Or How a Maple Leaf Survives an
Avalanche

•

6 Words for When You're Not
Sure

Just a shot in the dark here

•

The New 'Bubble' Popping
Up in Sports

Thinking inside the bubble

ASK THE EDITORS

•

'Intensive purposes': An
Eggcorn

We're intent on clearing it up

•

'Nip it in the butt': An Eggcorn

We're gonna stop you right there

•

Literally

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

•

Is Singular 'They' a Better Choice?

The awkward case of 'his or her'

WORD GAMES

•

Odd Habits and Quirks Quiz

Test your knowledge of strange human behaviors.

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•

Name That Thing: Animal Edition

How many animals can you
identify?

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Spell It

Can you spell these 10 commonly
misspelled words?

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•

Dictionary Devil

The dictionary has been scrambled
—can you put it back together?

[**PLAY THE GAME**](#)

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