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### Definition of 'purse'

## Quick Word Challenge

Question: 1 - Score: 0 / 5

attend court or reach court?

Which version is correct?

A key witness also failed to **attend court** in Dover.

A key witness also failed to **reach court** in Dover.

NEXT

## New collocations added to dictionary

Collocations are words that are often used together and are brilliant at providing natural sounding language for your speech and writing.

FEBRUARY 13, 2020





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(pɜrs )

Word forms: purses, pursing, pursed

**1. COUNTABLE NOUN**

A **purse** is a small bag or a handbag that women carry.

[US]

REGIONAL NOTE:

in BRIT, use bag

*She looked at me and then reached in her purse for cigarettes.*

**2. COUNTABLE NOUN**

A **purse** is a very small bag that people, especially women, keep their money in.

[mainly British]

REGIONAL NOTE:

in AM, usually use wallet**3. SINGULAR NOUN**

**Purse** is used to refer to the total amount of money that a country, family, or group has.

*The money could simply go into the public purse, helping to lower taxes.*

**Synonyms:** funds, means, money, resources [More Synonyms of purse](#)

**4. TRANSITIVE VERB**

If you **purse** your **lips**, you move them into a small, rounded shape, usually because you disapprove of something or when you are thinking.

*She pursed her lips in disapproval.*

**Synonyms:** pucker, close, contract, tighten [More Synonyms of purse](#)

[More Synonyms of purse](#)

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Video: pronunciation of

# purse



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English Quiz





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(pɜrs )**NOUN**

1. a small bag or pouch for carrying money
2. financial resources; money
3. a sum of money collected as a present or given as a prize
4. *US*  
a woman's handbag
5. anything like a purse in shape, use, etc.

**VERB TRANSITIVE**

Word forms: pursed or 'pursing

6. *Archaic*  
to put in a purse
7.
  - a. to gather into small folds
  - b. to draw (the lips) tightly together, as in disapproval

*Webster's New World College Dictionary, 4th Edition.  
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**Word origin**

ME < OE *purs* < ML *bursa*, bag, purse < LL, hide < Gr *byrsa*





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(pɜːrs) (verb **pursed**, **pursing**)

**NOUN**

1. a woman's handbag or pocketbook
2. a small bag, pouch, or case for carrying money
3. anything resembling a purse in appearance, use, etc
4. a sum of money offered as a prize or reward
5. a sum of money collected as a present or the like
6. money, resources, or wealth

**TRANSITIVE VERB**

7. to contract into folds or wrinkles; pucker  
*to purse one's lips*
8. to put into a purse

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**Derived forms**purseless **ADJECTIVE**purselike **ADJECTIVE****Word origin**

[bef. 1100; (n.) ME, OE *purs*, b. *pusa* bag (c. ON *posi*) and ML *bursa* bag (« Gk *býrsa* hide, leather); (v.) ME *pursen* to put in a purse, deriv. of the n.]



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(pɜːs )

**NOUN**

1. a small bag or pouch, often made of soft leather, for carrying money, esp coins
2. *US and Canadian*  
a woman's handbag
3. anything resembling a small bag or pouch in form or function
4. wealth; funds
5. a sum of money that is offered, esp as a prize

**VERB**

6. (*transitive*)  
to contract (the mouth, lips, etc) into a small rounded shape

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**Word origin**

Old English *purs*, probably from Late Latin *bursa* bag, ultimately from Greek: leather





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▲ These examples have been automatically selected and may contain sensitive content. [Read more...](#)

*Your wallet or purse will certainly feel the heat.*

THE SUN (2016)

*This is as much a public purse problem as a public health problem.*

TIMES, SUNDAY TIMES (2016)

*But what are the administrators in charge of the purse strings doing about it?*

THE SUN (2016)

*Fourteen per cent no longer bother with a wallet or purse.*

THE SUN (2016)

*Those controlling our purse strings certainly know what's in it for them.*

THE SUN (2016)

*The compact portable charger is so slinky it can fit like a credit card in your wallet or purse and boasts a built-in cable.*

THE SUN (2016)

*It might compete for the purse of people looking to buy consumer electronics; people might buy a tablet rather than a high-spec smartphone.*

COMPUTING (2010)

*The former PM already gets nearly 3million a year from the public purse.*

THE SUN (2016)

*The departure of the two heavyweight props will enable the purse strings to be loosened.*

TIMES, SUNDAY TIMES (2012)

*One person was dismissed after stealing money from the purse of a person they were caring for.*

TIMES, SUNDAY TIMES (2013)

Show more...





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America

More idioms containing

# purse

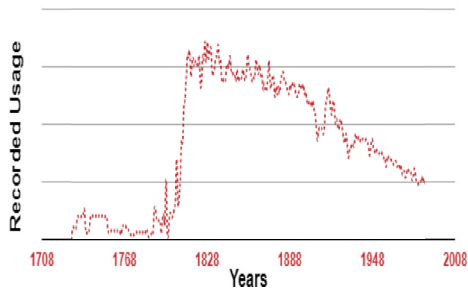
hold the purse strings

you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear

Trends of

# purse

View usage over:  ▾





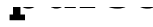


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British English: purse /pɜːs/ noun  
 A *purse* is a very small bag that people, especially women, keep their money in.  
*She reached in her purse for her money.*

American English: change purse /  
 ˈtʃeɪndʒ pɜːrs/

Arabic: جُرْدَان

Brazilian Portuguese: carteira

Chinese: 钱包

Croatian: novčanik

Czech: peněženka dámská

Danish: håndtaske

Dutch: portemonnee

European Spanish: monedero

Finnish: kukkaro

French: porte-monnaie

German: Geldbeutel

Greek: πορτοφόλι

Italian: borsellino

Japanese: 財布

Korean: 지갑

Norwegian: pung

Polish: portfel

European Portuguese: carteira

Romanian: poșetă

Russian: кошелек

Spanish: monedero

Swedish: portmonnä

Thai: กระเป๋าตังค์

Turkish: cüzdan kadın

Ukrainian: гаманець

Vietnamese: ví đựng tiền

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- [purring](#)
- [purringly](#)
- purse**
- [purse crab](#)
- [purse seine](#)

[All ENGLISH words that begin with 'P'](#)

**Related terms of**

# purse

- [purse](#)
- [sea purse](#)
- [long purse](#)
- [privy purse](#)
- [purse crab](#)

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**Source**

Definition of **purse** from the [Collins English Dictionary](#)

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## Quick Word Challenge

Question: 1 - Score: 0 / 5

**manner** or **manor**?

Which version is correct?

She smiled again in a friendly **manner**.

She smiled again in a friendly **manor**.



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