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part-ner (pärt'ner) [KEY](#)

NOUN:

1. One that is united or associated with another or others in an activity or a sphere of common interest, especially:
 - A member of a business partnership.
 - A spouse.
 - A domestic partner. See Usage Note at [domestic partner](#).
 - Either of two persons dancing together.
 - One of a pair or team in a sport or game, such as tennis or bridge.
2. *Nautical* A wooden framework used to strengthen a ship's deck at the point where a mast or other structure passes through it. Often used in the plural.

VERB:

part-nered, part-ner-ing, part-ners

VERB:

tr.

1. To make a partner of.
2. To bring together as partners.
3. To be the partner of.

VERB:

intr.

To work or perform as a partner or partners.

ETYMOLOGY:

Middle English *partener*, alteration (influenced by *part, part*), of *parcener, parcener*; see **parcener**

SYNONYMS:

partner, colleague, ally, confederate

These nouns all denote one who is united or associated with another, as in a venture or relationship. A *partner* participates in a relationship in which each member has equal status: *a partner in a law firm*. A *colleague* is an associate in an occupation or a profession: *a colleague and fellow professor*. An *ally* is one who associates with another, at least temporarily, in a common cause: *countries that were allies in World War II*. A *confederate* is a member of a confederacy, a league, or an alliance or sometimes a collaborator in a suspicious venture: *confederates in a scheme to oust the chairman*.

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