



An Encyclopædia Britannica Company

Join Us On

Dictionary | Thesaurus | Medical | Scrabble® | Spanish Central

Browse Dictionary | Browse Thesaurus

define



SEARCH >

Get our free apps! iPhone iPad Android

Games

Word of the Day

Video

Blog: Words at Play

My Faves

Dictionary

# define

verb de·fine \di-ˈfīn\

SAVE POPULARITY



Share

G+

Tweet

- : to explain the meaning of (a word, phrase, etc.)
- : to show or describe (someone or something) clearly and completely
- : to show the shape, outline, or edge of (something) very clearly

48 words to make in SCRABBLE® with Q and no U »

de·fined de·fin·ing

Full Definition of DEFINE

transitive verb

- a** : to determine or identify the essential qualities or meaning of <whatever *defines* us as human>

**b** : to discover and set forth the meaning of (as a word)

**c** : to create on a computer <*define* a window> <*define* a procedure>
- a** : to fix or mark the limits of : **DEMARCAT**E <rigidly *defined* property lines>

**b** : to make distinct, clear, or detailed especially in outline <the issues aren't too well *defined*>
- 3** : **CHARACTERIZE, DISTINGUISH** <you *define* yourself by the choices you make — *Denison University Bulletin*>

intransitive verb

- : to make a definition
- **de·fine·ment** \-ˈfīn-mənt\ *noun*
- **de·fin·er** \-ˈfī-nər\ *noun*

See [define](#) defined for English-language learners »

See [define](#) defined for kids »

ADVERTISEMENT

Word of the Day NOVEMBER 11, 2015

## dewy

wet with dew or unsophisticated

Get the Word of the Day daily email!

Your email address

SUBSCRIBE >

Words at Play



10 Surprisingly Odd Food Names

It is? Or sho

When to Use It's vs. Its

It's?

Word Games

Take a 3-minute break and test your skills!