



mask

noun | \ˈmask\

Popularity: Bottom 40% of words



Definition of MASK

- 1
 - a** (1) : a cover or partial cover for the face used for disguise (2) : a person wearing a mask : **MASKER**
 - b** (1) : a figure of a head worn on the stage in antiquity to identify the character and project the voice (2) : a grotesque false face worn at carnivals or in rituals
 - c** : an often grotesque carved head or face used as an ornament (as on a keystone)
 - d** : a sculptured face or a copy of a face made by means of a mold
- 2
 - a** : something that serves to conceal or disguise : **PRETENSE**, **CLOAK** <aware of the *masks*, facades and defenses people erect to protect themselves — Kenneth Keniston>
 - b** : something that conceals from view
 - c** : a translucent or opaque screen to cover part of the sensitive surface in taking or printing a photograph
 - d** : a pattern of opaque material used to shield selected areas of a surface (as of a

- 3** **a** : a protective covering for the face
- b** : **GAS MASK**
- c** : a device covering the mouth and nose to facilitate inhalation
- d** : a comparable device to prevent exhalation of infective material
- e** : a cosmetic preparation for the skin of the face that produces a tightening effect as it dries
- 4** **a** : the head or face of an animal (as a fox or dog)
- b** : an area (as the one around the eyes) of an animal's face that is distinguished by usually darker coloring

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

See [mask defined for kids](#)

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Examples of MASK in a sentence

Everyone wore costumes and *masks* to the dance.

Doctors wear surgical *masks* in the operating room.

Origin and Etymology of MASK

Middle French *masque*, from Old Italian *maschera*

First Known Use: 1534

Synonyms

vizard

Related Words

camouflage, costume, disguise, guise; bill, cloak, domino, hood, veil, visor (*also* vizor)

² mask

verb

Definition of MASK

intransitive verb

- 1 : to take part in a masquerade
- 2 **a** : to assume a mask
b : to disguise one's true character or intentions

transitive verb

- 1 : to provide or conceal with a mask: as
 - a** : to conceal from view <*mask* a gun battery>
 - b** : to make indistinct or imperceptible <*masks* undesirable flavors>
 - c** : to cover up <*masked* his real purpose>
- 2 : to cover for protection
- 3 : to modify the size or shape of (as a photograph) by means of an opaque border

—**masklike**  \-, līk\ *adjective*

See *mask* defined for English-language learners

Examples of MASK in a sentence

The house was *masked* by trees.

They tried to *mask* their real purpose.

She tried using perfume to *mask* the bad odor.

First Known Use of MASK

circa 1562

Circa 1562

MASK Synonyms

Synonyms

camouflage, cloak, dress up, disguise

Antonyms

unmask

Synonym Discussion of MASK

DISGUISE, **CLOAK**, **MASK** mean to alter the dress or appearance of so as to conceal the identity or true nature. **DISGUISE** implies a change in appearance or behavior that misleads by presenting a different apparent identity <*disguised* herself as a peasant>. **CLOAK** suggests a means of hiding a movement or an intention <*cloaked* their maneuvers in secrecy>. **MASK** suggests some often obvious means of hiding or disguising something <smiling to *mask* his discontent>.

MASK Defined for English Language Learners

² mask

verb

Definition of MASK FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

: to hide (something) from sight

: to keep (something) from being known or noticed

MASK Defined for Kids

¹ mask 

noun | \ˈmask\

Definition of MASK for Students

1 : a cover for the face or part of the face used for disguise or protection <a Halloween *mask*> <a catcher's *mask*>

2 : something that disguises or conceals <She visited under a *mask* of friendship.>

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