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proximate

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proximate

adjective

prox·i·mate | \ ˈpräk-sə-mət 🔊 \

Definition of *proximate*

1 **:** immediately preceding or following (as in a chain of events, causes, or effects) proximate, rather than ultimate, goals— Reinhold Niebuhr
2a **:** very near **:** close
b **:** soon forthcoming **:** imminent

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Other Words from *proximate*

proximately adverb
proximateness noun

Synonyms & Antonyms for *proximate*

Synonyms

approaching, coming, forthcoming, imminent, impending, nearing, oncoming, pending, upcoming

Antonyms

late, recent

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Did You Know?

You can approach a better understanding of this word, and an approximation of its history, if you recognize its two cousins in this sentence. *Proximate* derives from Latin *proximatus,* itself the past participle of the verb *proximare,* meaning "to approach." The noun "approximation" and both the noun and verb "approximate" derive from "proximare" (via the Late Latin verb *approximare*). "Proximare," in turn, comes from "proximus" ("nearest, next") and can be traced back to the adjective *prope,* meaning "near." "Prope" is also an ancestor of the English verb "approach," as well as "proximity," "propinquity," and "reproach."

Examples of *proximate* in a Sentence

the *proximate* cause of the fire the *proximate* publication of his first novel

Recent Examples on the Web

Tablets, despite being *proximate* to both phones and laptops, are unique. — [Vlad Savov, *The Verge*, "Google keeps failing to understand tablets," 29 Nov. 2018](#) But the metro-accessible, downtown-DC-*proximate*, and relatively dense Crystal City won out. — [Alex Baca, *Vox*, "I work in urban planning. Now Amazon's coming to my city.," 20 Nov. 2018](#)

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First Known Use of *proximate*

1661, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

History and Etymology for *proximate*

Latin *proximatus*, past participle of *proximare* to approach, from *proximus* nearest, next, superlative of *prope* near — more at [approach](#)

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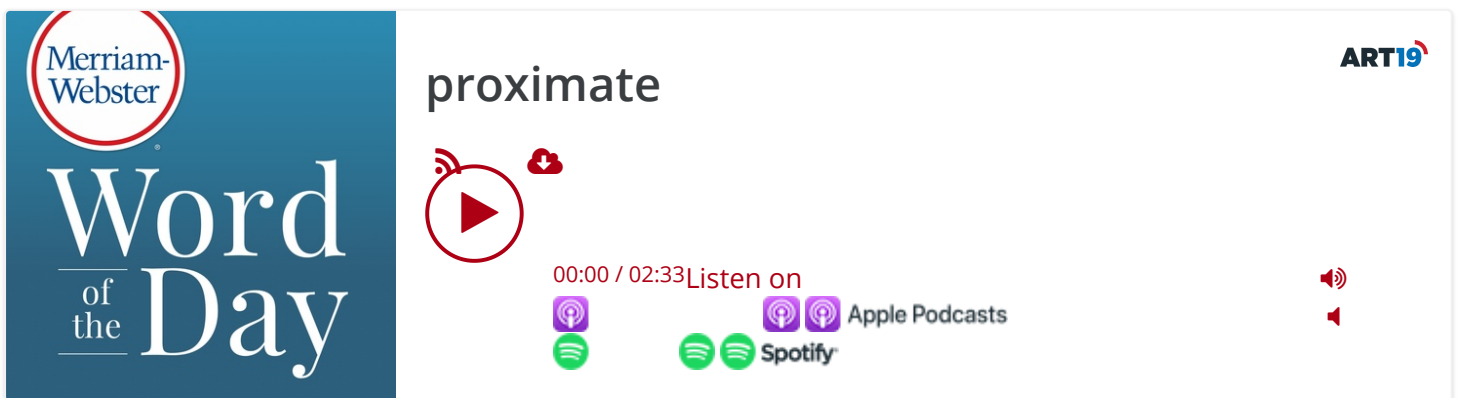
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adjective
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English Language Learners Definition of *proximate*

: coming or happening immediately before or after something in a way that shows a very close and direct relationship

See the full definition for *proximate* in the English Language Learners Dictionary

proximate

prox·i·mate | \ ˈpräk-sə-mət 🔊 \

Medical Definition of *proximate*

1a **:** very near
b **:** next, preceding, or following especially **:** relating to or being a proximate cause
2 **:** determined by proximate analysis
3 **:** [proximal sense 1b](#)

Other Words from *proximate*

proximately adverb

proximate

[adjective](#)

prox·i·mate | \ ˈpräk-sə-mət 🔊 \

Legal Definition of *proximate*

1 **:** next immediately preceding or following (as in a chain of causation, events, or effects) **:** being or leading to a particular especially foreseeable result without intervention — see also [proximate cause](#) at [cause sense 1](#)
2 **:** very or relatively close or near would be sufficiently proximate to the commencement of the defendant's trial — *Johnson v. New Jersey*, 384 U.S. 719 (1966)

Other Words from *proximate*

proximately adverb

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