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proximate



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proximate

[adjective](#)

prox·i·mate | \ 'präk-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 Savoy, *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](#)

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'proximate.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback.](#)

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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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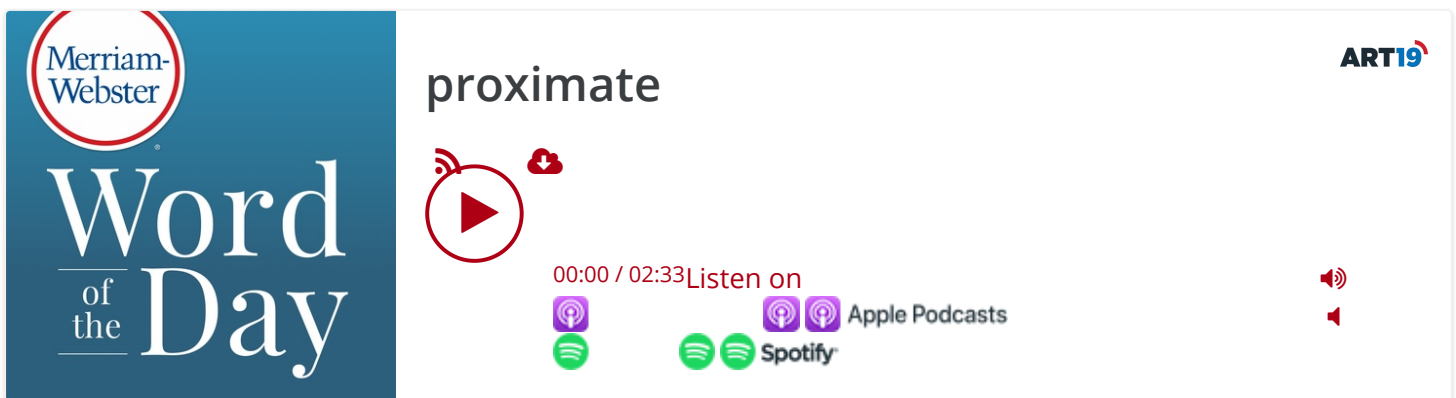


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The first known use of *proximate* was in 1661

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proximate

[adjective](#)




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 | \ 'präk-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 | \ 'präk-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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