



definitions



plane



# plane<sup>1</sup>



[pleyn]

Synonyms Examples Word Origin

See more synonyms for *plane* on Thesaurus.com

## noun

1. a flat or level surface.
2. *Geometry.* a surface generated by a straight line moving at a constant velocity with respect to a fixed point.
3. *Fine Arts.* an area of a two-dimensional surface having determinate extension and spatial direction or position:  
*oblique plane; horizontal plane.*

### Explore Dictionary.com



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These Are the Saddest Phrases in English

4. a level of dignity, character, existence, development, or the like:  
*a high moral plane.*

5. *Aeronautics*.
  - a. an airplane or a hydroplane:  
*to take a plane to Dallas.*
  - b. a thin, flat or curved, extended section of an airplane or a hydroplane, affording a supporting surface.
6. *Architecture*. a longitudinal section through the axis of a column.

## adjective

7. flat or level, as a surface.
8. of or relating to planes or plane figures.

## verb (used without object), **planed**, **plan·ing**.

9. to glide or soar.
10. (of a boat) to rise partly out of the water when moving at high speed.
11. *Informal*. to fly or travel in an airplane:  
*We'll drive to Detroit and plane to Los Angeles.*

## Origin of plane <sup>1</sup>

1400–50 for sense “to soar”; 1640–50 for noun and adj. senses; (noun) < Latin *plānum* flat surface (noun use of *plānus* flat); (adj.) < Latin *plānus*; first used to distinguish the geometrical senses formerly belonging to **plain**<sup>1</sup>; in def. 5, shortened form of **airplane**, **aeroplane**, or **hydroplane**; (v.) late Middle English *planen* (of a bird) to soar (compare Middle French *planer*); akin to **plain**<sup>1</sup>

## Related forms

**plane·ness**, noun

## Can be confused

plain plan **plane**

## Synonyms

See more synonyms for *plane* on [Thesaurus.com](#)

4. stratum, stage. 7. smooth, even, flush.

# plane<sup>2</sup>

[pleyn]

## noun

1. *Carpentry.* any of various woodworking instruments for paring, truing, or smoothing, or for forming moldings, chamfers, rabbets, grooves, etc., by means of an inclined, adjustable blade moved along and against the piece being worked.
2. a trowellike tool for smoothing the surface of clay in a brick mold.

## verb (used with object), **planed**, **plan·ing**.

3. to smooth or dress with or as if with a plane or a **planer**.
4. to remove by or as if by means of a plane (usually followed by *away* or *off*).

## verb (used without object), **planed**, **plan·ing**.

5. to work with a plane.
6. to function as a plane.

## Origin of plane<sup>2</sup>

1275–1325; (noun) Middle English (< Middle French) < Late Latin *plāna*, derivative of *plānāre* to smooth, itself derivative of Latin *plānus* **plain**<sup>1</sup>; (v.) Middle English *planen* (< Middle French *planer*) < Late Latin *plānāre*

# plane<sup>3</sup>

[pleyn]

## noun

1. plane tree.

## Origin of plane<sup>3</sup>

1350–1400; Middle English < Middle French < Latin *platanus* < Greek *plátanos*, derivative of *platýs* broad, flat<sup>1</sup> (with reference to the leaves)

Dictionary.com Unabridged

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## Examples from the Web for plane

### Contemporary Examples

Relating to your kids in the age of social media can be hard.



France Mourns—and Hunts

Nico Hines, Christopher Dickey

January 8, 2015

For Karen Handel, just relating to David Perdue is hard enough work in itself.



The Story Behind Lee Marvin's Liberty Valance Smile

Robert Ward

January 3, 2015

Of the nearly ten million women who underwent the practice, around 10 percent died from relating complications.



The Story Behind Lee Marvin's Liberty Valance Smile

Robert Ward

January 3, 2015

Relating to them or enjoying child-related activities is a battle I have no chance of winning.



Mario Cuomo, a Frustrating Hero to Democrats, Is Dead at 82

Eleanor Clift

January 2, 2015

And it all happened by relating the different clocks in rocks and DNA.



Wreckage, Bodies of AirAsia Crash Found

Lennox Samuels

December 30, 2014

### Historical Examples

He had been relating a thrilling adventure with a man-eating tiger.

Scientific American Supplement, No. 433, April 19, 1884

Various

A most important ruling of the commission is that relating to the pass abuse.

Flying Machines

W.J. Jackman and Thos. H. Russell

This was cruelty so marked that I could not refrain from relating it.

The Rock of Chickamauga

Joseph A. Altsheler

They were like detached chapters of the story she had just been relating.

City of Endless Night

Milo Hastings

As in the case of other laws, let us have a preamble, relating to all this class of crime.

Clarissa, Volume 3 (of 9)

Samuel Richardson

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## British Dictionary definitions for plane

# plane<sup>1</sup>

### noun

1. **maths** a flat surface in which a straight line joining any two of its points lies entirely on that surface
2. a flat or level surface
3. a level of existence, performance, attainment, etc
4. a. short for **aeroplane**  
b. a wing or supporting surface of an aircraft or hydroplane

### adjective

5. level or flat
6. **maths** (of a curve, figure, etc) lying entirely in one plane

### verb (*intr*)

7. to fly without moving wings or using engines; glide
8. (of a boat) to rise partly and skim over the water when moving at a certain speed

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