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enumerate



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# enumerate

[verb](#)

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enu·mer·ate | \ i- 'n(y)ü-mə-, rāt  \  
enumerated; enumerating

## Definition of *enumerate*

[transitive verb](#)


1 : to ascertain the number of : [count](#)

2 : to specify one after another : [list](#)

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## Other Words from *enumerate*

enumerative \ i- 'n(y)ü-mə-, rā-tiv , - 'n(y)üm-rə-, - 'n(y)ü-mə-rə- \ adjective

## Synonyms for *enumerate*

Synonyms

- [detail](#),
- [itemize](#),
- [list](#),
- [numerate](#),
- [recite](#),
- [reel off](#),
- [rehearse](#),
- [tick \(off\)](#)

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## The Meaning of Enumerate Gets Specific

In a census year, the U.S. government attempts to enumerate every single citizen of the country—a task that, even in the modern era of technology, isn't truly possible. Medical tests often require the *enumeration* of bacteria, viruses, or other organisms to determine the progress of a disease or the effectiveness of a medication. Despite its *numer-* root, you don't have to use numbers when enumerating. For students of government and law, the "enumerated powers" are the specific responsibilities of the Congress, as listed in the U.S. Constitution; these are the only powers that Congress has, a fact that the Tenth Amendment makes even more clearly.

## Examples of *enumerate* in a Sentence

Let me *enumerate* my reasons for doing this. I proceeded to *enumerate* the reasons why I would be justified in filing a lawsuit for negligence.

Recent Examples on the Web In the past week, hurricanes and wildfires have caused additional delays as the bureau races to *enumerate* all households in the country. — [Washington Post](#), "Trump asks Supreme Court to overturn lower-court ruling that blocked effort to exclude undocumented from apportionment," 22 Sep. 2020 For the past three months, biologists and technicians have roamed the region *enumerating* wolves and their packs in the Apache-Sitgreaves and Gila national forests. — [Debra Utacia Krol](#), [azcentral](#), "Health of packs studied, new wolves identified in annual Mexican gray wolf count," 10 Feb. 2020

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'enumerate.' 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 *enumerate*

1616, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

## History and Etymology for *enumerate*

Latin *enumeratus*, past participle of *enumerare*, from *e-* + *numerare* to count, from *numerus* number

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## Learn More about *enumerate*

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Time Traveler for *enumerate*



## The first known use of *enumerate* was in 1616

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[enucleate](#)

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[enumerable](#)

[enumerate](#)

[enumeration](#)

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30 Sep 2020

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More Definitions for *enumerate*

enumerate

[verb](#)




### English Language Learners Definition of *enumerate*

: to name (things) one after another in a list

[See the full definition for \*enumerate\* in the English Language Learners Dictionary.](#)

enumerate

[verb](#)

enu·mer·ate | \ i-'nü-mə-, rāt  , -'nyü- \  
enumerated; enumerating

## Kids Definition of *enumerate*

1 : [count entry 1 sense 1](#)

2 : to name one after another : [list](#)

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Britannica English: [Translation of \*enumerate\* for Arabic Speakers](#)

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