

# Detect - definition of detect by The Free Dictionary

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## detect

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### de·tect (dĭ-tĕkt')

*tr.v.* **de·tect·ed**, **de·tect·ing**, **de·tects**

1. To discover or ascertain the existence, presence, or fact of.
2. To discern (something hidden or subtle): *detected a note of sarcasm in the remark.*
3. To learn something hidden and often improper about: *detected the manager in a lie.*
4. *Electronics* To demodulate.

[Middle English *detecten*, from Latin *dētegere*, *dētēct-*, *to uncover*: *dē-*, *de-* + *tegere*, *to cover*; see [\(s\)teg-](#) in [Indo-European roots](#).]

**de·tect'a·ble**, **de·tect'i·ble** *adj.*

**de·tect'er** *n.*

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### detect (dĭ'tɛkt)

*vb (tr)*

1. to perceive or notice: *to detect a note of sarcasm.*
2. to discover the existence or presence of (esp something likely to elude observation): *to detect alcohol in the blood.*
3. (Electronics) to extract information from (an electromagnetic wave)
4. *obsolete* to reveal or expose (a crime, criminal, etc)

[C15: from Latin *dētectus* uncovered, from *dētegere* to uncover, from *de-* + *tegere* to cover]

**de'tectable**, **de'tectible** *adj*

**de'tecter** *n*

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### de•tect (dĭ'tɛkt)

*v.t.*

1. to discover or notice the existence or presence of: *to detect the odor of gas.*
2. to discover (a person) in some act: *to detect someone cheating.*
3. to discover the true, usu. concealed or underlying nature of.
4. to demodulate.

[1400–50; late Middle English < Latin *dētēctus*, past participle of *dētegere* to uncover]

de•tect`a•bil`i•ty, de•tect`i•bil`i•ty, *n.*

syn: See [learn](#).

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## detect

**Past participle:** detected

**Gerund:** detecting

Imperative

### Imperative

detect

detect

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## Thesaurus


Legend:  Synonyms  Related Words  Antonyms


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**Verb 1. detect** - discover or determine the existence, presence, or fact of; "She detected high levels of lead in her drinking water"; "We found traces of lead in the paint"


 [discover](#), [notice](#), [observe](#), [find](#)


 [catch out](#), [find out](#) - trap; especially in an error or in a reprehensible act; "He was caught out"; "She was found out when she tried to cash the stolen checks"


 [discover](#), [find](#) - make a discovery, make a new finding; "Roentgen discovered X-rays"; "Physicists believe they found a new elementary particle"

 [sense](#) - detect some circumstance or entity automatically; "This robot can sense the presence of people in the room"; "particle detectors sense ionization"

 [instantiate](#) - find an instance of (a word or particular usage of a word); "The linguists could not instantiate this sense of the noun that he claimed existed in a certain dialect"

 [trace](#) - discover traces of; "She traced the circumstances of her birth"

 [see](#) - observe as if with an eye; "The camera saw the burglary and recorded it"

 [sight](#), [spy](#) - catch sight of; to perceive with the eyes; "he caught sight of the king's men coming over the ridge"

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## detect

1. **discover, find, reveal, catch, expose, disclose, uncover, track down, hunt down, unmask, ferret out, smoke out** *equipment used to detect radiation*
2. **notice, see, spot, catch, note, identify, observe, remark, recognize, distinguish, perceive, scent, discern, ascertain, descry** *He could detect a certain sadness in her face.*

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## detect *verb*

1. To perceive, especially barely or fleetingly:

**catch, descry, discern, espy, glimpse, spot, spy.**

2. To perceive with a special effort of the senses or the mind:

**descry, discern, distinguish, mark, mind, note, notice, observe, remark, see.**

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**Translations** Select a language: Spanish / Español ▼

detectar
descubrir

**detect** [dɪˈtekt] *VT* (= *discover*) → **descubrir**; (= *notice*) → **percibir, detectar**; [+ *crime*] → **descubrir**; [+ *criminal*] → **identificar** (*Tech*) (*by radar etc*) → **detectar**

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## detect (diˈtekt) *verb*

to notice or discover. *She thought she could detect a smell of gas.* **detectar, sentir**

**deˈtective** (-tiv) *noun*

a person who tries to find criminals or watches suspected persons. *She was questioned by detectives.* **detective**

**detention****detain**

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## detect

v. detectar, descubrir.

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## detect *vt* detectar

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