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Definition of 'elapse'

elapse

Collins COBUILD

(ɪləps  )

Word forms: [elapses](#), [elapsing](#), [elapsed](#)


Word Frequency



INTRANSITIVE VERB

When time **elapses**, it passes.

[*formal*]

Forty-eight hours have elapsed since his arrest. 

Synonyms: [pass](#), [go](#), [go by](#), [lapse](#) [More Synonyms of elapse](#)

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Video: pronunciation of

elapse

American English pronunciation

Wordle Helper



Stuck at Wordle? Try our helper to maintain your current streak!

Quick Word Challenge

Question: 1 - Score: 0 / 5

road or rode?

Which version is correct?

We **road** for an hour without talking.

We **rode** for an hour without talking.

[NEXT](#)





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FEBRUARY 13, 2020

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British English pronunciation



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elapse

in American English

(i'ləps ; ɪ'ləps )

VERB INTRANSITIVE

Word forms: e'lapsed *or* e'lapsing

to slip by; pass

said of time

Word Frequency



Word origin

< L *elapsus*, pp. of *elabi*, to glide away < e-, out + *labi*, to glide, fall: see labor

elapse

Word Frequency

in American English



(ɪˈlæps) (verb **elapsed**, **elapsing**)

INTRANSITIVE VERB

1. (of time)

to slip or pass by

Thirty minutes elapsed before the performance began

NOUN

2. the passage or termination of a period of time; lapse

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Word origin

[1635–45; < L *elapsus* (ptp. of *elabi* to slip away), equiv. to e-ε- + *lab-* slip + *-sus* for *-tus* ptp. suffix]

elapse

Word Frequency

in British English



(ɪˈlæps)  

VERB

(intransitive)

(of time) to pass by

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Word origin

C17: from Latin *elabi* to slip away, from *labi* to slip, glide

Examples of 'elapse' in a sentence

elapse

▲ These examples have been automatically selected and may contain sensitive content that does not reflect the opinions or policies of Collins, or its parent company HarperCollins.

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Whole minutes elapsed before the substitution was made.

THE GUARDIAN (2016)

The fact that some nine years elapsed between them probably reflects the absence of opportunities.

THE GUARDIAN (2016)

Nine seconds had elapsed since the officer arrived.

THE GUARDIAN (2015)

And now the second has elapsed too.

THE GUARDIAN (2018)

We urge government action before another 27 years have elapsed.

THE GUARDIAN (2018)

Nearly two hundred years had elapsed since the death of the orphan of the Temple.

DEBORAH CADBURY THE LOST KING O...

Once the five minutes have elapsed, the job of engaging with the dog can begin.

JAN FENNELL, FOREWORD BY MONTY R...

Our allotted hour has long since elapsed, but she is in no hurry to go.

TIMES, SUNDAY TIMES (2016)

They are offering you odds for the first team to concede a goal - by time elapsed in the match.

THE SUN (2009)

It could find no record of your complaint to staff in the Oxford Street store because of the time that has elapsed since you went shopping.

TIMES, SUNDAY TIMES (2015)



Related word partners

elapse

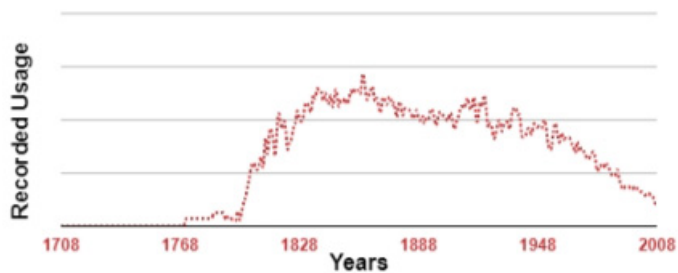
minutes elapse

time elapses

Trends of

elapse

View usage over:



In other languages

elapse

British English: elapse verb /ɪˈlæps/

When time *elapses*, it passes.

Forty-eight hours have elapsed since his arrest.

American English: elapse /ɪˈlæps/

Brazilian Portuguese: transcorrer

Chinese: 流逝时间

European Spanish: transcurrir

French: s'écouler

German: verstreichen

Italian: trascorrere

Japanese: 経過する

Korean: 경과하다

European Portuguese: transcorrer

Spanish: transcurrir

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