

Dictionary

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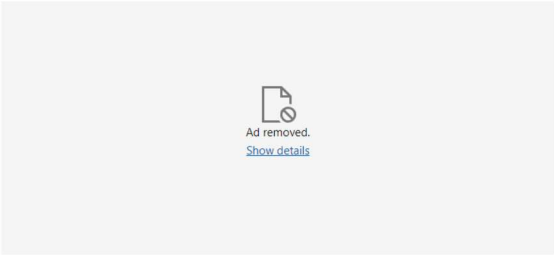
cavity noun

cav-i-ty 'ka-və-tē

plural cavities

Synonyms of cavity

- 1 : an unfilled space within a mass  
especially : a hollowed-out space
- 2 : an area of decay in a tooth : CRIES



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Synonyms

- |             |           |            |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
| concavity   | dent      | depression |
| dint        | hole      | hollow     |
| indentation | indenture | pit        |
| recess      |           |            |

See all Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus

Examples of cavity in a Sentence

- Some birds nest in tree **cavities**.
- I had two **cavities** filled at the dentist's.

Recent Examples on the Web

- These examples are automatically compiled from online sources to illustrate current usage. Opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. Send us feedback about these examples.
- Changes in the balance of these bacteria can lead to dental issues, such as oral infections and **cavities**.  
— Merve Ceylan, *Health*, 13 Oct. 2024
- The American Academy of Pediatrics highlighted key limitations to the review by the National Institutes of Health, as well as the lifelong effects that tooth decay and **cavities** – a common and preventable chronic disease – can have.  
— Deidre McPhillips, *CNN*, 3 Oct. 2024
- Cleaning putty: on sale for \$6.89 Original price: \$7.99 Keep cleaning putty, on sale for less than \$8 at Walmart, to quickly pick up crumbs, dust and debris in all the crevices and **cavities** of your car.  
— Nora Colomer, *Fox News*, 26 Sep. 2024
- Humans have two olfactory bulbs located in the forebrain, which are connected to each nasal **cavity** by the olfactory nerve.  
— Sarah Kuta, *Smithsonian Magazine*, 18 Sep. 2024

See all Example Sentences for cavity

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## Etymology

borrowed from Middle French & Late Latin; Middle French *cavit  *, borrowed from Late Latin *cavit  t-*, *cavit  s*, from Latin *cavus* "hollow, concave" + *-it  t-*, *-it  s* -ITY — more at [HOLE](#) entry 1

## First Known Use

1541, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

## Time Traveler

The first known use of *cavity* was in 1541

[See more words from the same year](#)

## Phrases Containing *cavity*

abdominal cavity	body cavity	pelvic cavity
segmentation cavity	spinal cavity	thoracic cavity

## Dictionary Entries Near *cavity*

[cavitoma](#)  
**cavity**  
[cavity oscillator](#)

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## Cite this Entry

Style [MLA](#)

"Cavity." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cavity>. Accessed 5 Nov. 2024.

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## Kids Definition

### cavity **noun**

cav-i-ty 'kav-  t-  

#### plural **cavities**

- 1 : a hollow place  
| *especially* : an unfilled bodily space  
| lung *cavity*
- 2 : a hole hollowed out in a tooth by decay



## Medical Definition

### cavity **noun**

cav-i-ty 'kav-  t-  

#### plural **cavities**

- 1 : an unfilled space within a mass

## More from Merriam-Webster on *cavity*

Nglish: Translation of *cavity* for Spanish Speakers

Britannica English: Translation of *cavity* for Arabic Speakers

Britannica.com: Encyclopedia article about *cavity*

Last Updated: 25 Oct 2024 - Updated example sentences

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