



cover



# COVER

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Syllabification: cov·er

Pronunciation: /'kʌvər/

Definition of *cover* in English:

verb

[WITH OBJECT]

1 Put something such as a **cloth** or **lid** on top of or in front of (something) in order to protect or **conceal** it:  
'the table had been **covered with** a *checked tablecloth*'  
'she **covered** her face **with** a *pillow*'

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1.1 **Envelop** in a layer of something, especially **dirt**:

'he was **covered** in *mud*'

**figurative** 'she was **covered** in *confusion*'

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[SYNONYMS](#)



1.2 **Scatter** a layer of loose material over (a surface, especially a floor), leaving it completely **obscured**:  
'the **barn** floor was **covered** in *straw*'

[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#)



1.3 **Lie over** or **adhere to** (a surface), as **decoration** or to **conceal** something:  
'**masonry** paint will **cover** *hairline cracks*'

[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#)



1.4 **Extend over** (an area):

*'the grounds covered eight acres'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES 

1.5 Travel (a specified distance):

*'it took them four days to cover 150 miles'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES 

SYNONYMS 

2 Deal with (a subject) by describing or **analyzing** its most important aspects or events:

*'a sequence of novels that will cover the period from 1968 to the present'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES 

2.1 Investigate, **report** on, or publish or **broadcast** pictures of (an event):

*'NBC is covering the Olympics'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES 

SYNONYMS 

2.2 Work in, have responsibility for, or provide services to (a particular area):

*'development officers whose work would cover a large area'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES 

SYNONYMS 

2.3 (Of a rule or law) **apply** to (a person or situation).

EXAMPLE SENTENCES 

3 (Of a sum of money) be enough to pay (a bill or cost):

*'there are grants to cover the cost of materials for loft insulation'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES 

SYNONYMS 

3.1 (Of **insurance**) protect against a **liability**, loss, or **accident** involving financial consequences:

*'your contents are now covered against accidental loss or damage in transit'*

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[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) [SYNONYMS](#) 

3.2 **(cover oneself)** Take **precautionary** measures so as to protect oneself against **future blame** or **liability**:  
*'one reason doctors take temperatures is to **cover** themselves **against** negligence claims'*

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[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) 

4 **Disguise** the sound or fact of (something) with another sound or action:

*'Louise **laughed** to **cover** her **embarrassment**'*

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[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) [SYNONYMS](#) 

4.1 **[NO OBJECT] (cover for)** Disguise the **illicit absence** or **wrongdoing** of (someone) in order to **spare** them **punishment**:

*'if the **sergeant** wants to know where you are, I'll **cover** for you'*

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[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) 

4.2 **[NO OBJECT] (cover for)** Temporarily take over the job of (a **colleague**) in their **absence**:

*'during **August** **ministers** **cover** for other **ministers**'*

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[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) [SYNONYMS](#) 

5 **Aim** a gun at (someone) in order to prevent them from moving or **escaping**.

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[EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) 

5.1 Protect (an **exposed** person) by shooting at an **enemy**:

(as adjective **covering**) *'the **jeeps** retreated behind **spurts** of **covering** **fire**'*

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[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) 

5.2 (Of a **fortress**, gun, or **cannon**) have (an area) within range.

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[EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) 

5.3 (In team games) take up a position ready to **defend** against (an opposing player).

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

5.4 **Baseball** Be in position at (a base) ready to catch a thrown ball.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

6 **Bridge** Play a higher card on (a high card) in a **trick**:

*'the ploy will fail if the ten is covered'*

[NO OBJECT]: *'East covered with his queen'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES

7 Record or perform a new **version** of (a song) originally performed by someone else:

*'other artists who have covered the song include U2'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES

8 (Of a male animal, especially a **stallion**) **copulate** with (a female animal), especially as part of a commercial **transaction** between the owners of the animals.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

**noun**

**cover**<sup>1</sup> A thing that lies on, over, or around something, especially in order to protect or **conceal** it:  
*'a seat cover'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES

SYNONYMS

1.1 A thin solid object that seals a **container** or hole; a **lid**:  
*'a manhole cover'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES

1.2 A thick protective outer part or **page** of a book or magazine:  
*'her life was captured between hard covers in her 1986 *autobiography*'*

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[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) ▼[SYNONYMS](#) ▼

1.3 **Philately** A card or [envelope](#) that has traveled through the [mail](#) or that contains [postal markings](#).

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[EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) ▼

1.4 **(the covers)** [Bedclothes](#):

*'she [burrowed](#) down beneath the covers'*

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[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) ▼[SYNONYMS](#) ▼

2 Physical [shelter](#) or protection sought by people in danger:

*'the [sirens wailed](#) and people ran for cover'*

*'[store](#) seats **under cover** before the bad weather [sets in](#)'*

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[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) ▼[SYNONYMS](#) ▼

2.1 [Undergrowth](#), trees, or other [vegetation](#) used as a [shelter](#) by animals:

*'the [standing crops](#) of game cover'*

*'a [landscape bare](#) of woodland except for [neat](#) little [fox](#) covers'*

See also [covert](#) (sense 1 of the noun).

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[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) ▼[SYNONYMS](#) ▼

2.2 An activity or organization used as a means of [concealing](#) an illegal or [secret](#) activity:

*'a restaurant is run as a **cover for** a money-laundering operation'*

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[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) ▼[SYNONYMS](#) ▼

2.3 [IN SINGULAR] An [identity](#) or activity adopted by a person, typically a [spy](#), to [conceal](#) their true activities:

*'he was [worried](#) that their cover was blown'*

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[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#) ▼

2.4 Military support given when someone is in danger from or being attacked by an **enemy**:  
'they agreed to provide *additional naval cover*'

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES ▼

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2.5 **Ecology** The amount of ground covered by a **vertical** projection of the **vegetation**, usually expressed as a **percentage**.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES ▼

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3 short for **cover charge**.

4 A **place setting** at a table in a restaurant.

[Rendering French *couver*]

EXAMPLE SENTENCES ▼

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5 (also **cover version**)

A recording or performance of a previously recorded song made especially to take advantage of the original's success.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES ▼

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## Phrases

### **break cover**

1 Suddenly leave a place of **shelter**, especially **vegetation**, when being **hunted** or pursued.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES ▼

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### **cover one's ass (or back)**

2 **informal** Foresee and avoid the **possibility** of attack or **criticism**.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES ▼

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### **cover all bases (or cover all the bases)**

3 Deal with something **thoroughly**:

'for the *prospective homebuilder*, this book *covers all bases*'

*'if you meet these basic **requirements**, you 'll cover all bases'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES ▼

## cover a multitude of sins

4 **Conceal** or **gloss** over many problems or defects:

*'stucco could cover a multitude of sins, including poor **brickwork**'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES ▼

## cover one's position

5 **Purchase securities** in order to be able to **fulfill** a **commitment** to sell.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES ▼

## cover one's tracks

6 **Conceal** evidence of what one has done.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES ▼

## cover the waterfront

7 **North American informal** Include a wide range of things; cover every aspect of something:  
*'while half the **dishes** are Italian, the **kitchen** covers the waterfront from Greece to **Morocco**'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES ▼

## from cover to cover

8 From beginning to end of a book or magazine.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES ▼

## take cover

9 Protect oneself from attack by **ducking** down into or under a **shelter**:  
*'if the **bombing** starts, take cover in the **basement**'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES ▼

## under cover of

10 **Concealed** by:  
*'the **yacht** made **landfall** under cover of **darkness**'*

[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#)**10.1 While **pretending** to do something:**

*'Moran **watched** every **move** under cover of reading the newspaper'*

[MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#)**under plain cover**

11 In an **envelope** or **parcel** without any marks to identify the **sender**.

[EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#)**under separate cover**

12 In a separate **envelope**.

[EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#)

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**Phrasal verbs****cover something up**

Put something on, over, or around something, especially in order to **conceal** or **disguise** it.

[EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#)

1.1 Try to **hide** or **deny** the fact of an illegal or **illicit** action or activity.

[EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#)

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**Derivatives****coverable**

**Pronunciation:**

adjective

[EXAMPLE SENTENCES](#)

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**Origin**

Middle English: from **Old French** *covrir*, from **Latin** *cooperire*, from *co-* (expressing intensive force) +

operire 'to cover'. The noun is partly a variant of [covert](#).

## Words that rhyme with cover

Glover, hardcover, lover, plover, undercover

### Definition of cover in:

- [British & World English](#) dictionary
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= trending

(a.k.a. the serial comma)



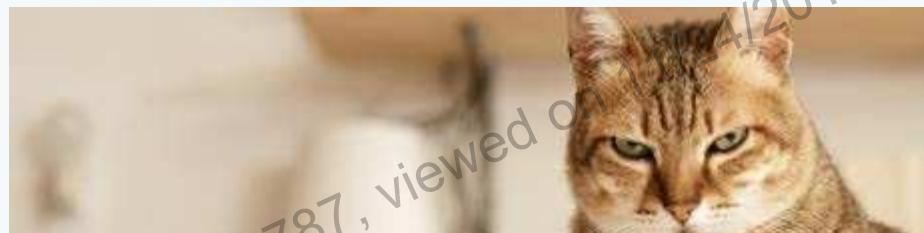
## Video: what is the Oxford comma?



Accept or except?



Faceoff: 'he', 'he or she', 'he/she', 's/he' versus 'they'



5 language arguments you can stop having



'Advise' and 'advice': what's the difference?

'-sion', '-tion' or '-cion'?

1) Which is the correct spelling?

 convultion convulsion

Score: 0

Next

*More about '-sion', '-tion' or '-cion'*

WORD OF THE DAY

# prelapsarian

*Find out what it means*

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[re-cover](#)  
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[Coventry](#)  
[cover](#)  
[cover band](#)  
[cover charge](#)

English (US)

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