



cover



cover

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Syllabification: cov·er

Pronunciation: /'kəvər/ ☐

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](#)'*

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 1.1 [Envelop](#) in a layer of something, especially [dirt](#):

'he was covered in [mud](#)'
[figurative](#) 'she was covered in [confusion](#)'

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES

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'

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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'

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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'

 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'*

 MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES



- 4 **Disguise** the sound or fact of (something) with another sound or action:
*'Louise **laughed** to cover her embarrassment'*

 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'*

 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'*

 MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES



 SYNONYMS



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

 EXAMPLE SENTENCES



- 5.1 Protect (an **exposed** person) by shooting at an **enemy**:
 (as adjective **covering**) *'the **jeeps** retreated behind spurts of covering fire'*

 MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES



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

 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

1 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**.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES



- 1.4 **(the covers)** **Bedclothes**:
'she **burrowed** down beneath the covers'

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**'

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).

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'

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'

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

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 3 short for **cover charge**.

- 4 A **place setting** at a table in a restaurant.
 [Rendering French *couvert*]

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 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

Phrases

break cover

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

cover one's ass (or back)

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

cover all bases (or cover all the bases)

- 3 Deal with something **thoroughly**:
*'for the **prospective homebuilder**, this book covers all bases'*

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'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



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



Derivatives

coverable

Pronunciation:

adjective

EXAMPLE SENTENCES



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
- [English synonyms](#)
- [US English synonyms](#)

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= trending

(a.k.a. the serial comma)



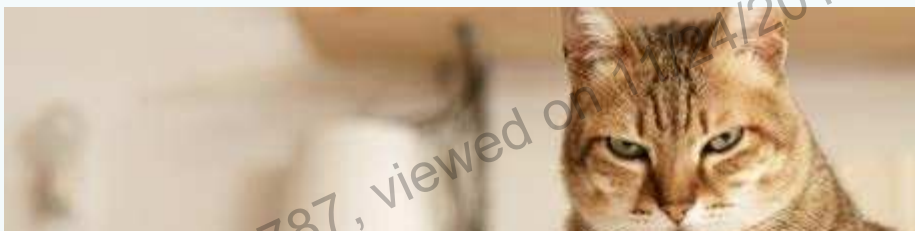
Video: what is the Oxford comma?



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?

convulsion

convulsion

Score: 0

Next

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

WORD OF THE DAY

prelapsarian

Find out what it means ☐

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- cover-up
- pan cover
- re-cover
- cover-up

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- Covent Garden
- Coventry
- cover
- cover band
- cover charge

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