



SINCE 1828

MENU

# selfie

noun | self-*ie* | \`sel-fē\

Popularity: Bottom 50% of words

Editor's note: Did You Know?

cited in USA       Laursen, No. 14-30244 archived on January 18, 2017

## Definition of SELFIE

: an image of oneself taken by oneself using a digital camera especially for posting on social networks

LEARN MORE FROM M-W

## Did You Know?

The first-known appearance of *selfie* in written form occurred in 2002 on website, but the word didn't see much use until 2012. By November 201 frequently enough in print and electronic media that the Oxford English I word as its Word of the Year. This announcement itself led to a significa of the word by news organizations, an increase that was further boosted



**Is It 'Deep-Seated' or 'Deep-Seeded'?**

December 10, 2013, memorial service for Nelson Mandela, at which American President Barack Obama was caught taking a selfie with Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt and British Prime Minister David Cameron. The word *selfie*, with its suggestions of self-centeredness and self-involvement, was particularly popular with critics who saw this moment as a reflection of the President's character.

## First Known Use of SELFIE

2002

2002



## SELFIE Defined for English Language Learners

cited in USA v. Laursen, No. 14-30244 archived on January 18, 2017

selfie 

noun | self·ie | \ˈsel-fē\

### Definition of SELFIE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

: a picture that you take of yourself especially by using the camera on your smartphone

### Seen and Heard

What made you want to look up *selfie*? Please tell us where you read or heard it



### Winter Words Quiz

Winter has returned along with cold weather. ...

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2016's final word of the day quiz

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SINCE 1828 MENU

<sup>1</sup> use 

noun | \ˈyūs\

Popularity: Top 20% of words

Examples: use in a sentence Tip: Synonym guide 

cited in USA v. Laursen, No. 14-30244 archived on January 18, 2017



## Definition of use

- 1
  - a** : the act or practice of employing something : **EMPLOYMENT**, **APPLICATION** <he made good *use* of his spare time>
  - b** : the fact or state of being used <a dish in daily *use*>
  - c** : a method or manner of employing or applying something <gain *use* of the camera>
- 2
  - a** (1) : habitual or customary usage (2) : an individual habit or grou
  - b** : a liturgical form or observance; *especially* : a liturgy having mo local church or religious order
- 3
  - a** : the privilege or benefit of using something <gave him the *use* o
  - b** : the ability or power to use something (as a limb or faculty)

LEARN MORE FROM M-W

**Is It 'Deep-Seated' or 'Deep-Seeded'?**

**c** : the legal enjoyment of property that consists in its employment, occupation, exercise, or practice

**4 a** : a particular service or end <put learning to practical *use*>

**b** : the quality of being suitable for employment <saving things that might be of *use*>

**c** : GOOD 2b <it's no *use* arguing>

**d** : the occasion or need to employ <took only what they had *use* for>

**5 a** : the benefit in law of one or more persons; *specifically* : the benefit or profit of property established in one other than the legal possessor

**b** : a legal arrangement by which such benefits and profits are so established

**6** : a favorable attitude : **LIKING** <had no *use* for modern art>

See [use defined for English-language learners](#)

See [use defined for kids](#)

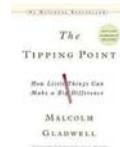
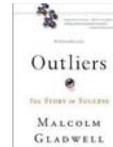
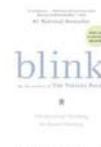
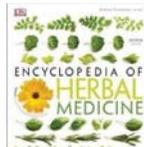
## Examples of use in a sentence

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Two players were suspended for illegal drug *use*.

Doctors have found a new *use* for the drug.

According to the dictionary, the word has two *uses*.



## Origin and Etymology of use

Middle English *us*, from Anglo-French, from Latin *usus*, from *uti* to use

First Known Use: 13th century

## USE Synonyms

### Synonyms

application, employment, exercise, operation, play, usage

### Antonyms

uselessness, worthlessness



<sup>2</sup> use 

verb | \ 'yüz\

## Definition of use

*cited in USA v. Laursen, No. 14-30244 archived on January 18, 2017*

used  \ 'yüzd, in the phrase "used to" usually 'yüs(t)\; using  \ 'yü-zinq\

### transitive verb

- 1 *archaic* : ACCUSTOM, HABITUATE
- 2 : to put into action or service : avail oneself of : EMPLOY
- 3 : to consume or take (as liquor or drugs) regularly
- 4 : to carry out a purpose or action by means of : UTILIZE; also : MANIPULATE 2b <used him selfishly>
- 5 : to expend or consume by putting to use —often used with *up*
- 6 : to behave toward : act with regard to : TREAT <used the prisoners cruelly>
- 7 : STAND 1d <the house could use a coat of paint>

## intransitive verb

- 1 —used in the past with *to* to indicate a former fact or state <we *used* to go more often>  
<didn't *use* to smoke>
- 2 : to take illicit drugs regularly

---

See [use defined for English-language learners](#)

## Examples of USE in a sentence

I need to *use* the phone when you're done.

The machine is easy to *use*.

After the accident, she could no longer *use* her legs.

We *use* only organic fertilizers on our farm.

They make paper *using* traditional Japanese methods.

He *used* his time there well.

Which accountant do you *use*?

a new kind of light bulb that *uses* very little electricity

Did you *use* all the eggs?

Who *used* the last match?

## First Known Use of USE

14th century

# 14th Century

## USE Synonyms

### Synonyms

apply, employ, exercise, exploit, harness, operate, utilize, bring to bear, draw on (or upon), make use of

### Related Words



## Synonym Discussion of USE

USE, EMPLOY, UTILIZE mean to put into service especially to attain an end. USE implies availing oneself of something as a means or instrument to an end <willing to use any means to achieve her ends>. EMPLOY suggests the use of a person or thing that is available but idle, inactive, or disengaged <looking for better ways to employ their skills>. UTILIZE may suggest the discovery of a new, profitable, or practical use for something <an old wooden bucket utilized as a planter>.

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## Phrases related to USE

### Related Phrases

<sup>1</sup>used to

<sup>2</sup>used to

come into use

for the use of

go out of use

have its uses

have no use for

in regular use

in use

it's no use

---

## USE Defined for English Language Learners

<sup>1</sup> use 

*noun* | \ 'yüs \

### Definition of USE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

: the act of using something

: the state of being used

: a way in which something is or can be used

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<sup>2</sup> use 

*verb* | \ 'yüz \

### Definition of USE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

: to do something with (an object, machine, person, method, etc.) in order to accomplish a task,

do an activity, etc.

: to take (something) from a supply in order to function or to do a task

: to eat, drink, etc., (something) regularly

## USE Defined for Kids

<sup>1</sup> **use** 

verb | \ 'yüz \

### Definition of USE for Students

**used** \ 'yüzd, in the phrase "used to" usually 'yüst \ **using** \ 'yü-zin \

- 1 : to put into action or service : make use of <use tools> <use good English>
- 2 —used with *to* to show a former custom, fact, or state <Grandma said winters *used* to be harder.>
- 3 : to take into the body <people who *use* drugs> <I don't *use* sugar in tea.>
- 4 : to do something by means of <Be sure to *use* care.>
- 5 : to behave toward : **TREAT** <He *used* the children kindly.>

—**user** *noun*

—**use up**

: to make complete use of : **EXHAUST** <We *used up* the supply of firewood within a week.>

## Word Root of USE

The Latin word *ūtī*, meaning “to use,” “to possess,” or “to enjoy,” and its form *ūsus* give us the roots **ut** and **us**. Words from the Latin *ūtī* have something to do with use. To **use** is to possess and enjoy. To **abuse** is to use something incorrectly or unfairly. Anything **usual** is commonly used by many people. A **utensil** is a tool that is **used** for a particular purpose, especially for eating or cooking.

<sup>2</sup> **use**   
noun | \ˈyūs\

## Definition of USE for Students

cited in USA v. Saursen, No. 14-30244 archived on January 18, 2017

- 1 : the act of putting something into action or service <put knowledge to *use*>
- 2 : the fact or state of being put into action or service <a book in daily *use*>
- 3 : way of putting into action or service <the proper *use* of tools>
- 4 : the ability or power to put something into action or service <It's a blessing to have the *use* of one's legs.>
- 5 : the quality or state of being useful
- 6 : a reason or need to put into action or service <I've no *use* for it.>
- 7 : **LIKING** <We have no *use* for mean people.>

## Law Dictionary

<sup>1</sup> use 

noun | \ˈyūs\

### Legal Definition of use

- 1 a** : an arrangement in which property is granted to another with the trust and confidence that the grantor or another is entitled to the beneficial enjoyment of it — see also **TRUST**, **STATUTE OF USES** *Editor's note: Uses originated in early English law and were the origin of the modern trust. Uses became popular in medieval England, where they were often secretly employed as a method of evading laws (as those prohibiting mortmain) and penalties (as attainder) and to defeat creditors. In response, the Statute of Uses was enacted in 1535. The purpose of the Statute was to execute the use, investing the legal ownership of the property in the cestui que use, or one entitled to the beneficial enjoyment, and abolishing the ownership of the grantee. The Statute did not have blanket application, however. Certain uses, particularly those in which the grantee was not merely a passive holder of the property, were not executed under the Statute. These uses were called trusts, and they were the basis of the modern trust.*
- b** : the right to the utilization and benefit of property to which legal title is held by another <the secret conveyance of *uses* in early English law>; *broadly* : the fact or right of having the benefits and profits of property

—beneficial use

: the use of a cestui que use analogous to a beneficial interest in a trust : **USE** 1b

—resulting use

: a use that equity attributes back to a grantor when there is no person declared to receive it or no transfer of consideration

—shifting use

: a use that is transferred or takes effect in derogation of some estate upon the happening of a future event

—springing use

: a use that arises upon the happening of a future event and is not in derogation of any other estate

2 : the utilization of property, resources, or services

—beneficial use

1 : use of property that allows an owner to derive a benefit or profit in the exercise of a basic property right <the owner was entitled to just compensation when he was forced to sacrifice all *beneficial use* of the property> — see also UNNECESSARY

HARDSHIP — compare TAKING

2 : use of water for a reasonable or beneficial purpose consistent with the public interest <authorize the diversion of water for *beneficial use*>

—conditional use

: use of property in a zone for a particular purpose that is allowed under conditions set forth in a zoning ordinance : SPECIAL EXCEPTION

—fair use

: a use of copyrighted material that does not constitute an infringement of the copyright provided the use is fair and reasonable and does not substantially impair the value of the work or the profits expected from it by its owner; *also* : the privilege of making a fair use of copyrighted work *Editor's note*: Among the factors determining if a use of a copyrighted work is a fair use are these: the purpose of the use, the character of the use (as in being commercial or educational in nature), the nature of the copyrighted work, and the amount of the work used.

—nonconforming use

: use of property in a manner that does not conform to the restrictions of a zoning law (as an ordinance); *specifically* : use in lawful existence when a restriction takes effect and so allowed to continue

—public use

- 1 : use by or to the benefit of the public; *broadly* : use that serves a legitimate or conceivable public purpose <nor shall private property be taken for *public use*, without just compensation — *U.S. Constitution* amend. V> — see also EMINENT DOMAIN — compare TAKING *Editor's note*: If a taking of property is not for public use then the consent of the owner is required.
- 2 : use of an invention by one who is under no limitation, restriction, or obligation of secrecy to the inventor *Editor's note*: Under federal law one is not entitled to a patent for an invention that was in public use more than a year prior to the date of application for the patent.

—reasonable use

- 1 : a use of one's property or of water that is for a suitable and beneficial purpose and that does not lead to unreasonable interference with another's use of property or with the natural flow of water
- 2 **a** : a rule whereby one may alter the natural flow of a watercourse as part of the reasonable use of property even though some harm results to another landowner  
**b** : a rule whereby a use of the water under the surface of one's land that causes harm to an adjacent landowner is reasonable if made for a suitable purpose in connection with the overlying land *Editor's note*: This rule originated when cities began to use land in the country for wells that caused injury to adjacent farmers; the water was not for use there and so unreasonableness ultimately depended not on waste or harm but on the final destination of the water.  
**c** : a rule that recognizes a landowner as entitled to make a reasonable use of property if it does not cause unreasonable harm to another and that may be applied to the alteration of a watercourse, the drainage of surface water, and the use of water beneath the surface
- 3 : utilization of a motor vehicle in a manner that is not completely foreign to its purpose <insurance for accidents arising from the ownership, maintenance, or *use* of the car>

<sup>2</sup> use 

*transitive verb* | \ 'yüz \

## Legal Definition of use

**used** **using**

: to put into service : have enjoyment of

– **user** *noun*

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## Learn More about use

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Spanish Central: [Translation of use](#)

Nglish: [Translation of use for Spanish speakers](#)

Britannica English: [Translation of use for Arabic speakers](#)

Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about use](#)

## Seen and Heard

What made you want to look up *use*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).



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PLUS \$15

**TaxAct.**  
 THE SYSTEM TO BEAT THE SYSTEM™

GET STARTED

use

Word of the Day

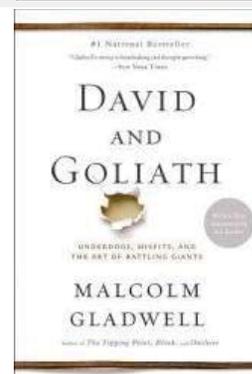
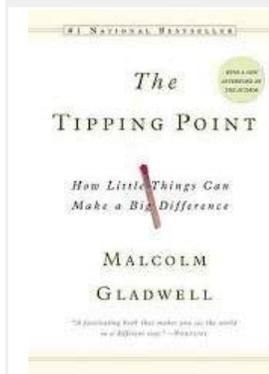
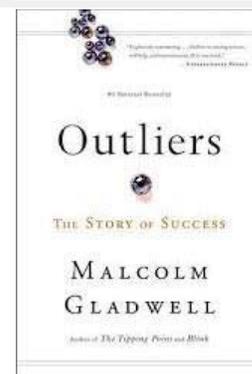
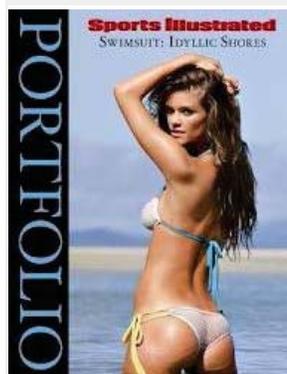
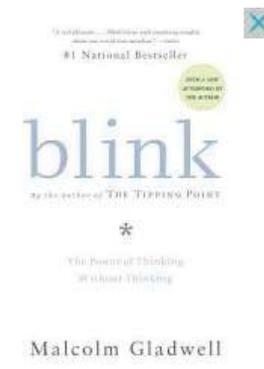
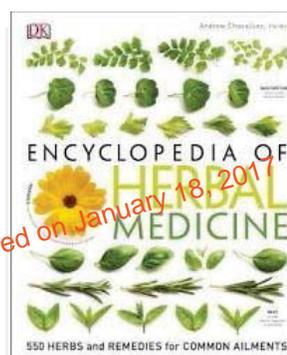
[verb yooz or for pt for mof 9, yoost;  
 noun yoos]

 Spell  Syllables

[Synonyms](#)   [Examples](#)   [Word Origin](#)
[See more synonyms on Thesaurus.com](#)
verb (used with object), **used, using**.

- to employ for some purpose; put into service;  
 make use of:  
*to use a knife.*
- to avail oneself of; apply to one's own purposes:  
*to use the facilities.*
- to expend or consume in use:  
*We have used the money provided.*
- to treat or behave toward:  
*He did not use his employees with much consideration.*
- to take unfair advantage of; exploit:  
*to use people to gain one's own ends.*
- to drink, smoke, or ingest habitually:  
*to use drugs.*
- to habituate or accustom.
- Archaic.* to practice habitually or customarily;

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booksamillion.com

Ghosting defined

make a practice of.

### Difficulty index for use

All English speakers likely know this word

verb (used without object), **used, using.**

9. to be accustomed or customarily found (used with an infinitive expressed or understood, and, except in archaic use, now only in the past):

*He used to go every day.*

10. *Archaic.* to resort, stay, or dwell customarily.

noun

11. the act of employing, using, or putting into service:

*the use of tools.*

12. the state of being employed or used.

13. an instance or way of employing or using something:

*proper use of the tool; the painter's use of color.*

14. a way of being employed or used; a purpose for which something is used:

*He was of temporary use; the instrument has different uses.*

15. the power, right, or privilege of employing or using something:

*to lose the use of the right eye; to be denied the use of a library card.*

16. service or advantage in or for being employed or used; utility or usefulness:

*of no practical use.*

17. help; profit; resulting good:

*What's the use of pursuing the matter?*

18. occasion or need, as for something to be employed or used:

*Would you have any use for another calendar?*

19. continued, habitual, or customary employment or practice; custom:

### Word Value for use

3

4

Scrabble

Words With Friends



### Nearby words for use

usda  
usda/aphis  
usdaw  
usdi  
usdw

#### use

use immunity  
use one's head  
use tax  
use the source luke  
use up

*to follow the prevailing use of such occasions.*

20. *Law.*
- a. the enjoyment of property, as by the employment, occupation, or exercise of it.
  - b. the benefit or profit of lands and tenements in the possession of another who simply holds them for the beneficiary.
  - c. the equitable ownership of land to which the legal title is in another's name.
21. *Liturgy.* the distinctive form of ritual or of any liturgical observance used in a particular church, diocese, community, etc.
22. usual or customary experience.

## Verb phrases

23. **use up,**
- a. to consume entirely.
  - b. to exhaust of vigor or usefulness; finish:  
*By the end of the war he felt used up and sick of life.*

## Idioms

24. **have no use for,** *cited in USA v. Laursen, No. 14-30244 archived on January 18, 2017*
- a. to have no occasion or need for:  
*She appears to have no use for the city.*
  - b. to refuse to tolerate; discount:  
*He had no use for his brother.*
  - c. to have a distaste for; dislike:  
*He has no use for dictators.*
25. **make use of,** to use for one's own purposes; employ:  
*Charitable organizations will make use of your old furniture and clothing.*
26. **of no use,** of no advantage or help:  
*It's of no use to look for that missing earring.*  
*It's no use asking her to go.*  
Also, **no use.**
27. **put to use,** to apply; employ to advantage:  
*What a shame that no one has put that old deserted mansion to use!*

## Origin of use



1175-1225

1175-1225; (v.) Middle English *usen* < Old French *user* < Latin *ūsus*, past participle of *ūtī* to use;  
(noun) Middle English < Old French < Latin *ūsus*  
act of using a thing, application, employment,  
equivalent to *ūt-*, stem of *ūtī* to use + *-tus* suffix of  
v. action, with *tt* > *s*

entered in USA v. Lausen, No. 14-30244 archived on January 18, 2017

## Related forms



**multiuse**, adjective

**nonuse**, NOUN

**nonusing**, adjective

**reuse**, verb, **reused**, **reusing**, NOUN

**underuse**, verb (used with object),

**underused**, **underusing**, NOUN



But if you take my bodily integrity without my consent, it's not a crime at all, unless you also *use* force.

[The Bogus Assange Rape Case](#)

Wendy Murphy

December 12, 2010

Jimmy Fallon put his SNL skills to *use* while impersonating Weiner in a faux press conference.

[15 Hilarious Weingate Reactions](#)

The Daily Beast Video

June 6, 2011

The right tried to *use* this against Obama in 2008, leading FactCheck.org to look into claims that Obama supported infanticide.

[Conservative Activists at GOP Convention Doggedly](#)

[Focus on Abortion](#)

Michelle Goldberg

August 28, 2012

Worms and amphipods, along with other animals, *use* or bury the pellets, which Havens observed after preliminary experiments.

cited in USA v. Laursen, No. 14-30244 archived on January 18, 2017

[Your Favorite Facewash Is Hurting Nemo](#)

Alexa C. Kurzius

June 17, 2014

Now, Vincent Sheheen wants to *use* Obamacare for a \$2 billion expansion of Medicaid in South Carolina.

[Everything is Obamacare!](#)

Jamelle Bouie

March 2, 2014

## Historical Examples

He wanted his Mother as much as ever, but something told him it was no *use*.

[The Biography of a Grizzly](#)

Ernest Seton-Thompson

"There's only one form of persuasion to *use* with an hombre,"

commented Henderson, gently.

Still Jim

Honor Willsie Morrow

The *use* of the pronoun, the *disuse* of the grammar pulled him up short.

The Incomplete Amorist

E. Nesbit

Its milk is very good also, and of *use* to people in consumption.

The National Nursery Book

Unknown

Some object to liver, therefore the *use* of it is a matter of taste.

Culture and Cooking

Catherine Owen

---

## British Dictionary definitions for use

# use

cited in USA v. Laursen, No. 14-30244 archived on January 18, 2017

### verb (transitive) (ju:z)

1. to put into service or action; employ for a given purpose: *to use a spoon to stir with*
2. to make a practice or habit of employing; exercise: *he uses his brain*
3. to behave towards: *to use a friend well*
4. to behave towards in a particular way for one's own ends: *he uses people*
5. to consume, expend, or exhaust: *the engine uses very little oil*
6. (**mainly US & Canadian**) to partake of (alcoholic drink, drugs, etc) or smoke (tobacco, marijuana, etc)

### noun (ju:s)

7. the act of using or the state of being used: *the carpet wore out through constant use*
8. the ability, right, or permission to use
9. the occasion to use; need: *I have no use for this paper*
10. an instance or manner of using
11. usefulness; advantage: *it is of no use to complain*
12. custom; practice; habit: *long use has inured him to it*
13. the purpose for which something is used; end
14. (**Christianity**) a distinctive form of liturgical or ritual observance, esp one that is traditional in a Church or group of Churches
15. the enjoyment of property, land, etc, by occupation or by deriving revenue or other benefit from it
16. (**law**) the beneficial enjoyment of property the legal title to which is held by another person as trustee
17. (**law**) *an archaic word for trust* (sense 7)
18. (**philosophy, logic, linguistics**) the occurrence of an expression in such a context that it performs its own linguistic function rather than being itself referred to. In "*Fido*" *refers to Fido*, the name *Fido* is 'used' only on the second occurrence, first being mentioned *Compare mention* (sense 7) *See also material mode*
19. **have no use for**
  - a. to have no need of
  - b. to have a contemptuous dislike for
20. **make use of**
  - a. to employ; use

cited in USA v. Laursen, No. 14-30244 archived on January 18, 2017

b. to exploit (a person)

See also [used to](#), [use up](#)

## Word Origin

C13: from Old French *user* to use, from Latin *ūsus* having used, from *ūtī* to use

Collins English Dictionary - Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition

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## Contemporary definitions for use

noun

See [US English](#)

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## Word Origin and History for use

*v.*

mid-13c., from Old French *user* "use, employ, practice," from Vulgar Latin *\*usare* "use," frequentative form of past participle stem of Latin *uti* "to use," in Old Latin *oeti* "use, employ, exercise, perform," of unknown origin. Related: *Used*; *using*. Replaced Old English *brucan* (see [brook](#) (*v.*)).

*n.*

early 13c., from Old French *us*, from Latin *usus*

"use, custom, skill, habit," from past participle stem of *uti* (see [use](#) (v.)).

Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2010 Douglas Harper  
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## Slang definitions & phrases for use

### use

*verb*

To use narcotics; take a dose or injection of a narcotic: *I used this morning and I'm still nice (1950s+ Narcotics)*

The Dictionary of American Slang, Fourth Edition by Barbara Ann Kipfer, PhD. and Robert L. Chapman, Ph.D.  
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## use in Technology

language

An early system on the [IBM 1130](#).  
[Listed in CACM 2(5):16, May 1959].  
(2004-09-14)

The Free On-line Dictionary of Computing, © Denis Howe 2010  
<http://foldoc.org>  
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## Idioms and Phrases with use

### use

[use one's head](#)

[use up](#)

also see:

[have no use for](#)

[no use](#)

make use of

put to good use

also see under:

used

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