



SINCE 1828 MENU

# 1 plan

noun | \ˈplæn\

Popularity: Top 20% of words

Examples: PLAN in a Sentence ▼

Tip: Synonym Guide ▼

## Definition of PLAN

cited in Campidoglio LLC v. Wells Fargo & Co. No. 14-35898, archived on September 8, 2017

1 : a drawing or diagram drawn on a **plane**: such as  
a : a top or horizontal view of an object  
b : a large-scale map of a small area

2 a : a method for achieving an end  
b : an often customary method of doing something : **PROCEDURE**  
c : a detailed formulation of a program of action  
d : **GOAL, AIM**

3 : an orderly arrangement of parts of an overall design or objective

4 : a detailed program (as for payment or the pr  
• pension *plan*

—**planless** \ˈplæn-ləs\ *adjective*

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See *plan* defined for English-language learners

See *plan* defined for kids

## Indulge Your Inner Word Nerd

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### Examples of PLAN in a Sentence

the army's *plan* of attack

We need to agree on a *plan of action*.

Our *plan* was to have the guests park on the street, not the lawn.

When we met them at the restaurant, they said there had been a *change of plan*.

He changed his long-distance *plan*.

## Recent Examples of PLAN from the Web

The miner, the biggest producer of South African gold, has also contended with a stronger rand this year, which eats into earnings, and charges related to *plans* to close some unprofitable gold mines in South Africa.

- Kevin Crowley, *Bloomberg.com*, "Sibanye Gold Won't Pay Dividend For First Time as It Posts Loss," 30 Aug. 2017

David Mann, Douglas Gilbert, Greg Marsey, Jeremy Burton and JoBeth Halpin were the *plan* commission members who voted against the Albion proposal.

- Steve Schering, *chicagotribune.com*, "Albion building proposal fails to get support of Oak Park Plan Commission," 30 Aug. 2017

Nearly 1,000 residents signed petitions opposing the Prospect Cove *plan*.

- Sheldon S. Shafer, *The Courier-Journal*, "Prospect doesn't want this senior housing project. Planners approved the rezoning anyway," 30 Aug. 2017

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*These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'plan.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#).*

## Origin and Etymology of PLAN

French, plane, foundation, ground plan; partly from Latin *planum* level ground, from neuter of *planus* level; partly from French *planter* to plant, fix in place, from

## PLAN Synonyms

Synonyms

arrangement, blueprint, design, game, game plan, ground plan, master plan

## Synonym Discussion of PLAN

**PLAN**, **DESIGN**, **PLOT**, **SCHEME**, **PROJECT** mean a method devised for making or doing something or achieving an end. **PLAN** always implies mental formulation and sometimes graphic representation. ⟨• *plans* for a house⟩ **DESIGN** often suggests a particular pattern and some degree of achieved order or harmony. ⟨• a *design* for a new dress⟩ **PLOT** implies a laying out in clearly distinguished sections with attention to their relations and proportions. ⟨• the *plot* of the play⟩ **SCHEME** stresses calculation of the end in view and may apply to a plan motivated by craftiness and self-interest. ⟨• a *scheme* to defraud the government⟩ **PROJECT** often stresses imaginative scope and vision. ⟨• a *project* to develop the waterfront⟩

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<sup>2</sup> **plan**  
verb

## Definition of PLAN

planned; planning

transitive verb

1 : to arrange the parts of : **DESIGN** • *plan* a new layout

## intransitive verb

1 : to make **plans** • *plan* ahead

2 : to have a specified intention —used with *on* • *plans* on going

—**planner** *noun*

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See *plan* defined for English-language learners

## Examples of PLAN in a Sentence

We are busy *planning* the party.

The prisoners spent months *planning* their escape.

a teacher *planning* her next lesson

The students are *planning* a protest.

We have something very special *planned* for your birthday.

Their wedding is *planned* for June.

a *planned* series of books about cars

Things don't always go *as planned*.

Always remember to *plan ahead*.

## Recent Examples of PLAN from the Web

The brand is offering different deals every day from September 3 to 23, so start *planning* your shopping accordingly.

Wilson, as Ohio State looms," 30 Aug. 2017

Additionally, Wal-Mart will force all suppliers to list all of its product ingredients, and Target *plans* to implement the same requirement by 2020.

— Kathleen Hou, *The Cut*, "You Can Now Know Exactly What's in Your Pantene Shampoo," 30 Aug. 2017

*These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'plan.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback.](#)*

## First Known Use of PLAN

1718

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## PLAN Synonyms

Synonyms

arrange, blueprint, budget, calculate, chart, choreograph, design, frame, lay out, map (out), organize, prepare, project, scheme (out), shape, strategize (about)

plan-

*combining form*

variants: *or* **plano-**

## Definition of PLAN-

1 : flat • *planography*

## Origin and Etymology of PLAN-

Latin *planus*

## PLAN Defined for English Language Learners

# plan

*noun*

### Definition of PLAN for English Language Learners

: a set of actions that have been thought of as a way to do or achieve something

: something that a person intends to do

: a detailed agreement for telephone service, medical care, insurance, etc.

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# plan

*verb*

### Definition of PLAN for English Language Learners

: to think about and arrange the parts or details of (something) before it happens or is made

: to intend or expect to do (something)

: to expect something to happen

# <sup>1</sup> plan

*noun* | \ˈplɑn\

## Definition of PLAN for Students

- 1 : a method or scheme of acting, doing, or arranging • vacation *plans*
- They were nervous because ... their *plan* was indeed a risky one. — Lemony Snicket, *The Austere Academy*
- 2 : a drawing or diagram showing the parts or outline of something

# <sup>2</sup> plan

*verb*

## Definition of PLAN for Students

planned; planning

- 1 : to form a diagram of or for : arrange the parts or details of ahead of time
- *plan* a bridge • *plan* a picnic
- 2 : to have in mind : **INTEND** • What are you *planning* to do with the leftovers?

## Law Dictionary

# plan

*noun*

## Legal Definition of PLAN



- 2 : a detailed program; *especially* : one made under chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code that places future earnings under the control of a trustee, provides for the payment of creditors, and is subject to approval by the creditors

## Learn More about PLAN

See [words that rhyme with plan](#)

Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for plan](#)

Spanish Central: [Translation of plan](#)

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

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

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## Seen and Heard

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

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SINCE 1828 MENU

# undertake

verb | un·der·take | \,ən-dər-'tāk\

Popularity: Bottom 50% of words

Examples: UNDERTAKE in a Sentence ▾

## Definition of UNDERTAKE

undertook \,ən-dər-'tōk, undertaken \,ən-dər-'tā-kən\; undertaking

transitive verb

- 1 : to take upon oneself : set about : **ATTEMPT** • *undertake* a task • *undertake* to learn to swim
- 2 : to put oneself **under** obligation to perform; *also* : to accept as a charge or responsibility • the lawyer who *undertook* the case
- 3 : **GUARANTEE, PROMISE**
  - readily *undertook* that the letter should be securely conveyed — Sir Walter Scott

intransitive verb

*archaic* : to give surety or assume responsibility

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### Examples of UNDERTAKE in a Sentence

He's *undertaking* a thorough search.

The researchers *undertook* a series of studies.

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### Recent Examples of UNDERTAKE from the Web

Among the key measures *undertaken* within efforts to fulfill International Monetary Fund conditions for a \$12 billion loan, Egypt devalued and then floated the

Understandably, the couple got tired of all their time apart, so Dove just *undertook* a super romantic gesture: flying across the world to see Thomas, just Jared Jr. reports.

— Suzannah Weiss, *Teen Vogue*, "Dove Cameron Flew to Romania to See Thomas Doherty," 5 Aug. 2017

Already, the county system has *undertaken* wetland mitigation ahead of the project, which was on target to be under construction in early 2018.

— John Sharp, *AL.com*, "Gulf Shores approves city school study," 1 Aug. 2017

*These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'undertake.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. Send us feedback.*

## First Known Use of UNDERTAKE

14th century

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## UNDERTAKE Synonyms

Synonyms

accept, bear, shoulder, take over, assume

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## Phrases Related to UNDERTAKE

### Related Phrases

give an undertaking

UNDERTAKE Defined for English Language Learners  
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# undertake

*verb*

### Definition of UNDERTAKE for English Language Learners

: to begin or attempt (something)

: to agree or promise to do (something)

### UNDERTAKE Defined for Kids

# undertake

*verb* 1. undertake 1. ˌʌn.dər.ˈtāk

undertook \-'túk\; undertaken \-'tā-kən\; undertaking

- 1 : to plan or try to accomplish • They *undertook* a trip around the world.
- 2 : to take on as a responsibility : **AGREE** • I *undertake* to deliver your package.

## Learn More about UNDERTAKE

See [words that rhyme with undertake](#)

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## Seen and Heard

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