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cursory

adjective

cur·so·ry | \ 'kərs-rē , 'kər-sə-\



Definition of *cursory*

: rapidly and often superficially performed or produced : [hasty](#) a cursory glance Only a cursory inspection of the building's electrical wiring was done.

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Other Words from *cursory*

cursorily \ 'kərs-rə-lē , 'kər-sə-\ adverb
 cursoriness \ 'kərs-rē-nəs , 'kər-sə-\ noun

Synonyms & Antonyms for *cursory*

Synonyms

[drive-by](#), [flying](#), [gadarene](#), [hasty](#), [headlong](#), [helter-skelter](#), [hurried](#), [overhasty](#), [pell-mell](#), [precipitate](#), [precipitous](#), [rash](#), [rushed](#)

Antonyms

[deliberate](#), [unhurried](#), [unrushed](#)

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Choose the Right Synonym for *cursory*

[superficial](#), [shallow](#), [cursory](#) mean lacking in depth or solidity. [superficial](#) implies a concern only with surface aspects or obvious features. a *superficial* analysis of the problem [shallow](#) is more generally derogatory in implying lack of depth in knowledge, reasoning, emotions, or character. a light, *shallow*, and frivolous review [cursory](#) suggests a lack of thoroughness or a neglect of details. gave the letter only a *cursory* reading



What Is the Difference Between *cursory*, *superficial*, and *shallow*?

Cursory and its synonyms "superficial" and "shallow" all mean "lacking in depth or solidity" - but these words are not used in exactly the same way in all cases. "Cursory," which comes from the Latin verb *currere* ("to run"), implies speed and stresses a lack of attention to detail. While "cursory" suggests a lack

of thoroughness, "superficial" implies a concern only with surface aspects or obvious features. An analysis of a problem might be labeled "superficial" if it considers only the obvious and fails to dig deeper into the issue. "Shallow" is more generally derogatory in implying lack of depth in knowledge, reasoning, emotions, or character, as in "insensitive and shallow comments."

Examples of *cursory* in a Sentence

Only a *cursory* inspection of the building's electrical wiring was done. The mayor gave a *cursory* glance at the report.

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Recent Examples on the Web

Violations in the quality of medical care and safety of detainees are infrequent and *cursory*, according to a review of federal records and court documents.— [Los Angeles Times](#), "Private inspectors paint a rosy picture of U.S. immigrant detention centers. Audits find otherwise," 26 July 2019 The plot element is handled in *cursory* fashion, via Frank making a brief public announcement, followed by onscreen graphics informing us of its hundreds of thousands of good deeds.— [Frank Scheck](#), *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'Wish Man': Film Review," 23 July 2019

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

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First Known Use of *cursory*

1601, in the meaning defined [above](#)

History and Etymology for *cursory*

borrowed from Medieval Latin *cursōrius* "of running, swift" (Late Latin in nominal derivatives, as *cursōria* "shoe for running"), adjectival derivative of Latin *cursor* "runner" — more at [cursor](#)

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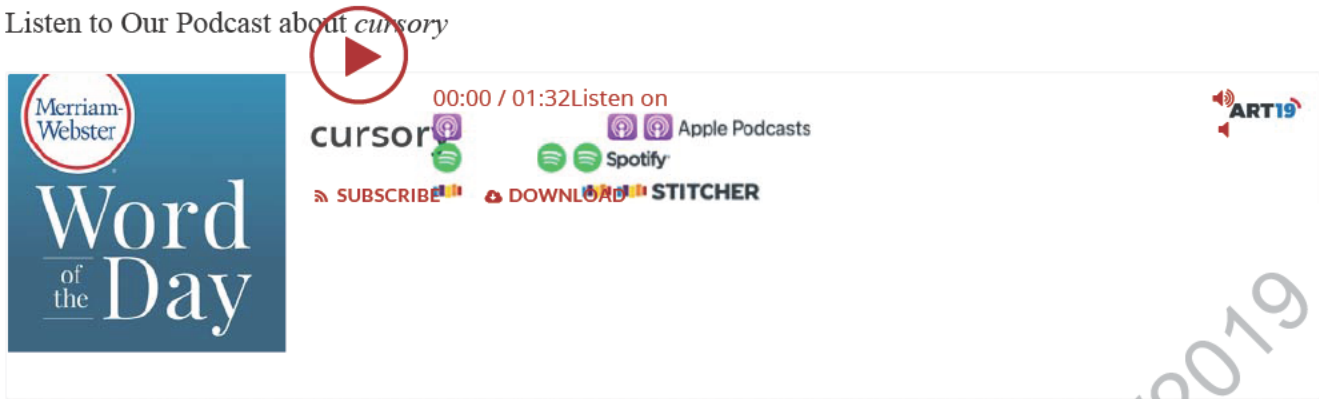


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More Definitions for *cursory*

cursory

[adjective](#)



English Language Learners Definition of *cursory*

formal + often disapproving : done or made quickly

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cursory

[adjective](#)

kur·so·ry | \ 'kərs-rē , 'kər-sə-rē\

Kids Definition of *cursory*

: done or made quickly a *cursory* reply

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WORD OF THE DAY

ransack 

to look through thoroughly in a rough way

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• something that is ooid is shaped like:

anything unpleasant

an egg

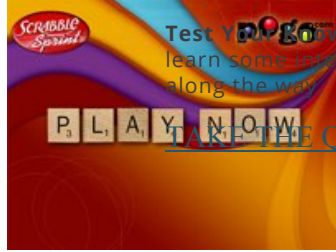
a tennis ball

a wound from shrapnel



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