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compulsory



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compulsory

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com·pul·so·ry | \ kəm- 'pəls-rē , - 'pəl-sə- \

Definition of *compulsory*

1 : [mandatory](#), [enforced](#) compulsory retirement

2 : [coercive](#), [compelling](#) compulsory measures

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Other Words from *compulsory*

compulsorily \ kəm- 'pəls-rə-lē  , - 'pəl-sə- \ adverb

Synonyms & Antonyms for *compulsory*

Synonyms

- [forced](#),
- [imperative](#),
- [incumbent](#),
- [involuntary](#),
- [mandatory](#),
- [necessary](#),
- [nonelective](#),
- [obligatory](#),
- [peremptory](#),
- [required](#)

Antonyms

- [elective](#),
- [optional](#),
- [voluntary](#)

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Examples of *compulsory* in a Sentence

To free the mind and the heart from compulsory religious confession and observance was good for all three interested parties: the state, the church and the people.— Jon Meacham, *Newsweek*, 27 Jan. 2009 So he wants a private life and no photographs and nobody to know his home address. I can dig it, I can relate to that (but, like he should try it when it's compulsory instead of a free-choice option).— Salman Rushdie, *New York Times Book Review*, 14 Jan. 1990

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Recent Examples on the Web Under the state of emergency, schools were closed, children were banned from gatherings, and vaccinations were made *compulsory*.— [BostonGlobe.com](#), "[Since September, over 5,600 measles cases have been recorded in the Pacific island nation of about 200,000 people, the Health Ministry said. At least 81 people have died, many of them younger than 5.](#)" 31 Dec. 2019 Other than their pledge to eliminate rules that makes elections *compulsory* every five years, reforming how Britain goes to

the polls is likely the last thing on the Conservatives' minds.— [Natasha Frost, Quartz, "The UK's electoral system is a disaster for democracy," 13 Dec. 2019](#)

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'compulsory.' 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 *compulsory*

1581, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

History and Etymology for *compulsory*

see [compulsion](#)

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Time Traveler for *compulsory*



The first known use of *compulsory* was in 1581

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Dictionary Entries near *compulsory*

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[compulsive](#)

[compulsoriness](#)

[compulsory](#)

[compulsory jurisdiction](#)

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More Definitions for *compulsory*

compulsory

[adjective](#)

English Language Learners Definition of *compulsory*

: required by a law or rule

: having the power of forcing someone to do something

[See the full definition for *compulsory* in the English Language Learners Dictionary](#)

compulsory

[adjective](#)com·pul·so·ry | \ kəm-'pəls-rē , -'pəl-sə-rē \

Kids Definition of *compulsory*

1 : required by or as if by law *compulsory* education2 : having the power of forcing someone to do something a *compulsory* law

compulsory

[adjective](#)

com·pul·so·ry | \ kəm-'pəl-sə-rē  \

Legal Definition of *compulsory*

1 : required or compelled by law : [mandatory](#), [obligatory](#) compulsory arbitration compulsory insurance
specifically : required to be brought or asserted in a pleading because of having arisen from the transaction or occurrence that is the subject of litigation a compulsory counterclaim compulsory reconvention — compare [elective](#), [permissive](#)
2 : using compulsion : [compelling](#) compulsory measures

Other Words from *compulsory*

compulsorily \ -sə-rə-lē  \ adverb

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WORD OF THE DAY

parvenu 

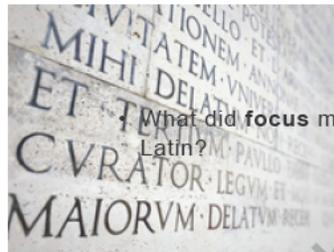
one that suddenly gains wealth or power

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Test Your Vocabulary

Intact Latin Quiz



-

<u>square</u>	<u>hearth</u>
<u>boundary</u>	<u>diameter</u>



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WORDS AT PLAY



Words from Scottish English
We Love

Some of our favorite Scottish
English words ...



The Words of the Week -
1/24/20

Words from the week of
1/24/2020 ...



Sorting Out 'A Lot' a
'Allot'

A whole lot of sense

ASK THE EDITORS



2019 Word of the Year:
Behind the Scenes

How we chose 'they'



Is It 'Hanger' or 'Hangar'?

How to remember which is
which ...



Literally

How to use a word th
(literally) drives some p

WORD GAMES

**Intact Latin Quiz**

What did each of these words mean to ancient Romans? ...

TAKE THE QUIZ

**The Eponym Quiz**

Do you know these words that come from names? ...

TAKE THE QUIZ

**Spell It**

Can you spell these 1 commonly misspelled w...

TAKE THE QUIZ

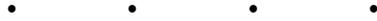
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