



Meaning of **active** in English



active

adjective

US /'æk.tɪv/ UK /'æk.tɪv/

active adjective (BUSY)



B1

busy with a particular activity:

- *physically/mentally active*
- *You have to try to **keep** active as you grow older.*

– Thesaurus: synonyms, antonyms, and examples

having a lot to do

busy *I was busy clearing out the shed.*

up to your ears in something *I'm up to my ears in chores!*

up to your eyeballs in something *Don't bother her - she's up to her eyeballs in paperwork.*

up to your eyes in something *I'm up to my eyes in work at the moment.*

up to your neck in something *I can't help, I'm up to my neck in schoolwork.*

have your hands full *I have my hands full with the kids at the moment, so I can't take on any more work.*

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+ More examples

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Learn the words you need to communicate with confidence.

active adjective (INVOLVED)



B2

involved in a particular activity:

- *Enemy forces remain active in the mountainous areas around the city.*
- *She's very active **in** (= involved in) local politics.*
- *Both of his parents were very **politically** active.*
- *It is important to educate children before they become **sexually** active.*
- *He takes a more active **role** in the team nowadays.*
- *She's an active **member** of her labor union (= not only belongs to it, but does work to help it).*

+ More examples

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active adjective (VOLCANO)



C1

An active volcano is one that might erupt (= throw out hot liquid rock or other matter) at any time.

+ SMART Vocabulary: related words and phrases

active adjective (GRAMMAR)



B1 LANGUAGE





- "Catrin told me" is an active sentence, and "I was told by Catrin" is passive.

Compare

passive adjective

+ More examples

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Grammar

Word order and focus

There are a number of ways in which we can arrange subjects, verbs, objects, complements and adjuncts within a clause. Depending on how we arrange them, we can focus on certain elements over others, especially if we arrange them in an unusual way. ...

Word order: structures

There are a number of options which we can use to add emphasis or focus within a clause. ...

Indirect object versus prepositional complement

When we talk about someone receiving something, we can express it using the typical word order: indirect object (io) + direct object (do). ...

Active and passive voice

Active voice is the typical word order. That is when we put the subject (the doer) first, followed by the new information (which is the focus): ...

Cleft sentences

Cleft means 'divided' and in a cleft sentence a single message is divided across two clauses. We use cleft sentences, especially in speaking, to connect what is already understood to what is new to the listener. By doing this we can focus on the new information. There are different types of cleft sentence. ...



active

noun [S]





▶ the active



→ the active voice

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(Definition of *active* from the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus © Cambridge University Press)

active | INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH

active

adjective

US /'æk.tɪv/

active adjective (DOING SOMETHING)



doing something as you usually do, or being able to do something physically or mentally:

- *He was still an active runner at 55.*
- *She's active in state politics (= involved in it).*
- *She intends to remain politically active.*
- *His National Guard unit was put on active duty (= made part of the regular fighting force).*



An active volcano is one that might begin to throw out hot gases, liquid, or rocks at any time.

active adjective (GRAMMAR)



[not gradable] • GRAMMAR





- In "Alex gave me a gift," the verb "give" is active, and in "I was given a gift by Alex," "give" is passive.

actively

adverb US /'æk·tɪv·li/

- He isn't actively involved in the day-to-day management of the business anymore.

(Definition of **active** from the Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary © Cambridge University Press)

active | BUSINESS ENGLISH

active

adjective

UK /'æktɪv/ US



busy with or involved in a particular activity:

- **active in sth** He expects to **remain active** in commodity trading in London.
- She claims to be active in almost every aspect of her business.



doing something practical rather than allowing a situation to develop by itself:

- **an active member/participant** He has been an active member of the Executive Committee since 2004.
- **an active part/role** Employees who take an active part in the project feel more involved and more responsible about the results.
- **active participation/intervention**
- **active in sth** We would expect countries whose firms are highly globalized to be more active in adopting e-commerce.





FINANCE

involving a lot of buying and selling of shares, etc.:

- **active buying/trading** *Trading was most active in five-year maturities.*
- *The session was active early, but volume dropped off after midday.*
- *This made Intel the second-most **active stock** in U.S. trading.*

**used to describe a company that is selling goods and services or doing business, especially in a particular place:**

- *Whitbread was especially active but several other brewers were also buying at the rate of 20 or 30 a year.*
- **be active in sth** *The company is active in a wide range of businesses, including oil, chemicals, and construction.*
- *Over the last ten years, the company has become active in Europe.*

**working or being used at a particular time:**

- **active accounts/cardholders/customers** *The company has more than one million active cardholders, with about 44% of all group sales being made through the card.*
- **active employees/members**
- *The organization releases a weekly survey of the number of active oil and gas drilling rigs in the U.S. and Canada.*



IT

relating to programs, etc. that are being used at a particular time:

- *Click the associated tab in a bar running across the screen, and the selected page opens in the active window.*





EXAMPLES of **active**

active

At the time, he had 40 *active* clients and had earned more than \$13 million in commissions during his career.

From [Dallas Morning News](#)

These are big projects that can only be done with the *active* support of government.

From [TechCrunch](#)

Muse uses this feedback to show you how calm or *active* your mind becomes over time.

From [TechCrunch](#)

But now that tech employees are themselves struggling to pay high rents, they're starting to get more politically *active* in dealing with housing issues.

From [Politico](#)

There are five trucks per caravan and five *active* caravans.

From [NPR](#)

The brain, however, is part of a dynamic system that includes an *active* organism interacting with an *active* environment.

From [Huffington Post](#)

It should be something you're an *active* participant in.

From [Philly.com](#)

But there was no way around an *active* front line on the edge of the city.

From [NBCNews.com](#)

Although ground weta are common in many places we know little about them because they are only *active* at night.

From [Phys.Org](#)

All of my free time is spent at the gym or doing something *active*.

From [CNN](#)



Translations of **active**

in Chinese (Traditional)

忙於...的, 忙的 / 參與的, 參與...的...

See more

in Chinese (Simplified)

忙于...的, 忙的 / 参与的, 参与...的...

See more

in Spanish

activo, activo/va [masculine-feminine]...

See more

in Portuguese

ativo, dinâmico, atuante...

See more

in more languages



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What is the pronunciation of *active*? >

Browse

activated sludge BETA

activating

activation

activation energy BETA

active





active duty BETA

active galactic nucleus BETA

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- All

[active voice](#)

[active bond](#)

[active duty](#) BETA

[active site](#) BETA

[proactive](#)

[active layer](#) BETA

[active partner](#)

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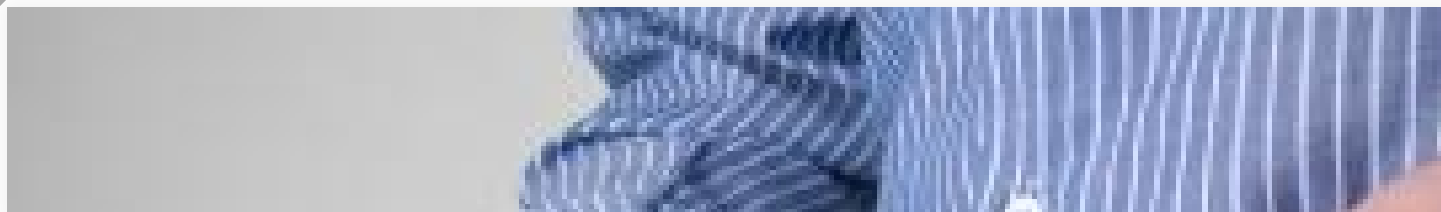


WORD OF THE DAY

mountaineering

the sport or activity of climbing mountains

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