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auction

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auction

1 of 2

noun


auc·tion ['òk-shən](#) 

- 1
: a sale of property to the highest bidder
- 2
: the act or process of bidding in some card games

auction

2 of 2

verb

auctioned; auctioning ['òk-sh\(ə-\)nɪŋ](#) 

transitive verb

- : to sell at auction
- auctioned off his library

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Example Sentences

Noun She bought the desk at an *auction*. He made several bids at the *auction*. Verb They *auctioned* a similar desk last year. The house was *auctioned* last week.

Recent Examples on the Web

Noun

But if *auction* history is to serve as our guide, the Marie Antoinette stamp will likely prove record-breaking once more. — Leena Kim, *Town & Country*, 16 Nov. 2022 Guests bid on *auction* items that included a Louis Vuitton handbag, a vacation to Tulum in Mexico and a stay at Soho Farmhouse, Soho House's members club in the British countryside. — Steven Vargas, *Los Angeles Times*, 16 Nov. 2022 [See More](#)

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

Word History

Etymology

Noun

Latin *auktion-*, *auctio*, from *augēre* to increase — more at [eke](#)

First Known Use

Noun

1595, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Verb

1723, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *auktion* was in 1595

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Phrases Containing *auktion*

- [auktion house](#)
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- [auktion house](#)
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[au courant](#)

auction

[auction bridge](#)

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Kids Definition

auction 1 of 2

noun

auc·tion ['òk-shən](#) 

: a sale at which things are sold to those who offer to pay the most

auction

2 of 2

verb

auctioned; auctioning [-sh\(ə-\)nɪŋ](#)
: to sell at auction

Legal Definition

au·ction

noun

au·ction
: a public sale of property to the highest bidder → see also [reserve](#)

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Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for *au·ction*](#)

English: [Translation of *au·ction* for Spanish Speakers](#)

Britannica English: [Translation of *au·ction* for Arabic Speakers](#)

Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about *au·ction*](#)

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- Which of the following best describes an easily irritated person?

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gregarious

flashy

tetchy

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A daily challenge for crossword fanatics.

TAKE THE QUIZ

WORDS AT PLAY

Every Letter Is Silent, Sometimes

When each letter can be seen but
not heard

-

Great Big List of Beautiful and Useless Words, Vol. 1

Some may be more useful than
others.

-

'Canceled' or 'Cancelled'?

-

One L or two?

When Were Words First Used?

-

Look up any year to find out

ASK THE EDITORS

Literally

How to use a word that (literally)

- drives some pe...

Is 'None' Singular or Plural?

- Or both? Or neither?

Lay vs. Lie

Editor Emily Brewster clarifies the difference.

-

Ending a Sentence with a Preposition

An old-fashioned rule we can no longer put up with.

-

WORD GAMES

What Did You Just Call Me?

See if you can tell the insults from the complime...

- **TAKE THE QUIZ**

Challenging SAT Words

20 questions to help you score 1600

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