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acquire

[verb](#)

ac·quire | \ ə- 'kwī(-ə)r \

acquired; acquiring

Definition of *acquire*

[transitive verb](#)

1 : to get as one's own:

a : to come into possession or control of often by unspecified means acquire property
The team *acquired* three new players this year.

b : to come to have as a new or added characteristic, trait, or ability (as by sustained effort or natural selection) acquire fluency in French
bacteria that acquire tolerance to antibiotics

2 : to locate and hold (a desired object) in a detector acquire a target by radar

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Synonyms & Antonyms for *acquire*

Synonyms


[cultivate](#), [develop](#), [form](#)

Antonyms

[lose](#)

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Examples of *acquire* in a Sentence

The two ships were *acquired* by the navy after the war. The team *acquired* three new players this year.
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Recent Examples on the Web

All of this comes at almost the perfect corporate timing in terms of Disney *acquiring* a majority stake in Hulu this May, where series like *Brooklyn 99* have resided for some time.— [Sam Machkovech, *Ars Technica*, "NBC Peacock is Comcast's dive into the crazy streaming-video fray," 17 Sep. 2019](#) In *acquiring* this beloved brand, the Wineland trio felt the weight of carrying on its legacy.— [Rachel King, *Fortune*, "A Women-Run Travel Agency Leading Adventure Trips for Women Only," 14 Sep. 2019](#)

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

15th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

History and Etymology for *acquire*

borrowed from Latin *acquīrere*, from *ad-* [ad-](#) + *quaerere* "to seek, gain, obtain, enquire"; replacing earlier *aquere*, going back to Middle English *aqweren*, borrowed from Anglo-French *acquerre*, going back to Vulgar Latin **acquāerere*, restructuring (by restoring the vocalism of *quaerere*) of *acquīrere* — more at [quest entry 1](#)

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acquire

[verb](#)




English Language Learners Definition of *acquire*

formal : to get (something) : to come to own (something) : to come to have (something)
: to gain (a new skill, ability, etc.) usually by your own effort

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

acquire

[verb](#)


ac·quire | \ ə-ˈkwīr \ 
acquired; acquiring

Kids Definition of *acquire*

: to get especially through effort : [gain](#) *acquire* a skill

acquire

[transitive verb](#)

ac·quire | \ ə-ˈkwī(ə)r \ 
acquired; acquiring


Medical Definition of *acquire*

: to come to have as a new or additional characteristic, trait, or ability (as by sustained effort, by mutation, or through environmental forces) a cognitive system... that is *acquired* in early childhood— Noam Chomsky bacteria that acquire tolerance to antibioticsinsects that acquire resistance to insecticides

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acquire

[transitive verb](#)

ac·quire | \ ə-ˈkwīr \ 
acquired; acquiring

Legal Definition of *acquire*

: to come into possession, ownership, or control of : obtain as one's own the target's directors don't want the company to be *acquired*— R. C. Clark the court *acquired* jurisdiction

Other Words from *acquire*

acquirer also acquiror \ ə-ˈkwīr-ər \ noun

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to be made up of

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You all would not have
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How to use a word th
(literally) drives some p

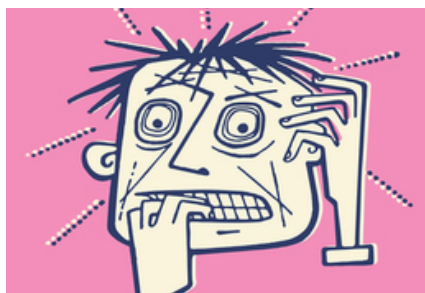
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