



SINCE 1828

# retire **verb**

re·tire | \ ri-'tī(-ə)r \

**retired; retiring**

## Definition of *retire*

*intransitive verb*

- 1** : to withdraw from action or danger : RETREAT
- 2** : to withdraw especially for privacy  
*// retired to her room*
- 3** : to move back : RECEDE
- 4** : to withdraw from one's position or occupation : conclude one's working or professional career
- 5** : to go to bed

*transitive verb*

- 1** : WITHDRAW: such as
  - a** : to march (a military force) away from the enemy
  - b** : to withdraw from circulation or from the market : RECALL  
*// retire a bond*

- 3 a** : to put out (a batter) in baseball
- b** : to cause (a side) to end a turn at bat in baseball
- 4** : to win permanent possession of (something, such as a trophy)
- 5** : to pay in full : SETTLE  
*// retire a debt*

### Other Words from *retire*

### Synonyms & Antonyms

### More Example Sentences

### Learn More about *retire*

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## Synonyms & Antonyms for *retire*

### Synonyms

bed, crash [*slang*], doss (down) [*chiefly British*], turn in

### Antonyms

arise, get up, rise, uprising

[Visit the Thesaurus for More](#)

## Examples of *retire* in a Sentence

// I want to be healthy when I *retire*.

// She had to *retire* during the first set because of a muscle strain.

[See More](#)

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## Recent Examples on the Web

// The church had dwindled to about a dozen people before its part-time priest suddenly *retired* in 2015 after a family tragedy.

— G. Jeffrey Macdonald, *The Christian Science Monitor*, "Pastor-sharing: For clergy, a holy hustle and labor of love," 14 Apr. 2020

// This was not standard practice for Fitzgerald, who is running to succeed U.S. Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, who is *retiring*.

— Daniel Bice, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, "Bice: All seven Supreme Court justices voted absentee, even those who hadn't in the past," 13 Apr. 2020

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

[See More](#)

## First Known Use of *retire*

1533, in the meaning defined at intransitive sense 1

## History and Etymology for *retire*

Middle French *retirer*, from *re-* + *tirer* to draw

*Keep scrolling for more*

## Learn More about *retire*

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### Time Traveler for *retire*

Time Traveler **The first known use of *retire* was in 1533**

See more words from the same year

### From the Editors at Merriam-Webster



Should You 'Quit' or 'Resign'?

### Dictionary Entries near *retire*

- retirade
- retiral
- retirant
- retire**
- retired
- retired list
- retiree

### Phrases Related to *retire*

- retire the side

[See More Nearby Entries](#)

St  
La  
18  
Lo  
Bo

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## More Definitions for *retire*

**retire** verb

### English Language Learners Definition of *retire*

: to stop a job or career because you have reached the age when you are not allowed to work anymore or do not need or want to work anymore

: to cause (someone, such as a military officer) to end a job or career

: to stop playing in a game, competition, etc., especially because of injury

See the full definition for *retire* in the English Language Learners Dictionary

**retire** verb

re·tire | \ ri-'tīr \

**retired; retiring**

## Kids Definition of *retire*

- 1 : to give up a job permanently : quit working  
// My grandfather *retired* at 65 years old.
- 2 : to go away especially to be alone  
// I *retired* to my room.
- 3 : to go to bed  
// I'm *retiring* for the night.
- 4 : to withdraw from use or service  
// The navy *retired* an old ship.
- 5 : to get away from action or danger : RETREAT  
// The army *retired* from the battlefield.

## Other Words from *retire*

**retirement** \ -mənt \ *noun*

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**retire** **verb**

re·tire

**retired; retiring**

## Legal Definition of *retire*

*intransitive verb*

: to withdraw from an action

// the jury *retired* for deliberations

*transitive verb*

: to withdraw from circulation or from the market

// *retire* a loan

// *retire* stock

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Keep scrolling for more

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## More from Merriam-Webster on *retire*

Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for *retire*

Rhyming Dictionary: Words that rhyme with *retire*

Spanish Central: Translation of *retire*

Nglish: Translation of *retire* for Spanish Speakers

Britannica English: Translation of *retire* for Arabic Speakers

## Comments on *retire*

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WORDS AT PLAY

**Next Stop: 'Trolley Problem'**

We have a hard decision to make.

**The Words of the Week - 4/17/20**

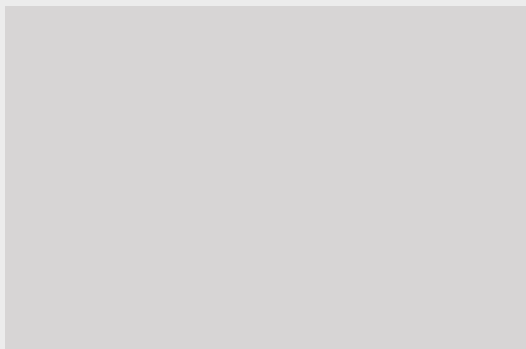
Words from the week of 4/17/2020

Last Viewed by First Circuit Library on 04/20/2020



## **The History of 'Disease'**

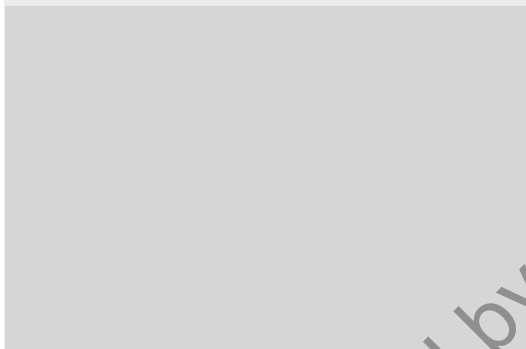
It was originally a sum of its parts



## **'Essential' & 'Nonessential'**

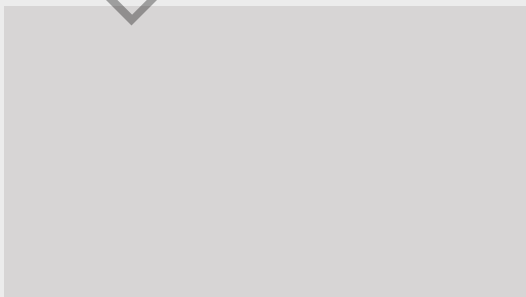
Or is it 'inessential'? Or  
'unessential'?

ASK THE EDITORS



## **How to Remember the Spelling of 'Definitely'**

A definitive answer.



## **Video: Why Is There a 'C' in 'Indict'?**

And who put it there, anyway?

### **Literally**

How to use a word that (literally) drives some people nuts.

### **Is Singular 'They' a Better Choice?**

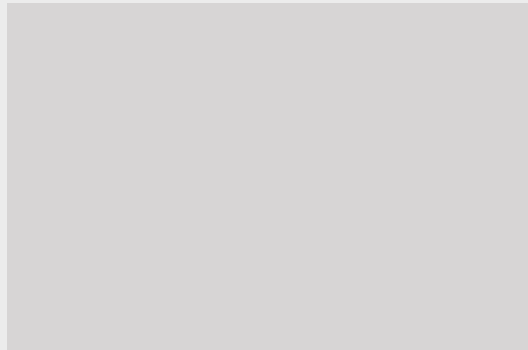
The awkward case of 'his or her'

**WORD GAMES**

## Words from Animals Quiz

Sick of the news? Come look at pictures of baby animals.

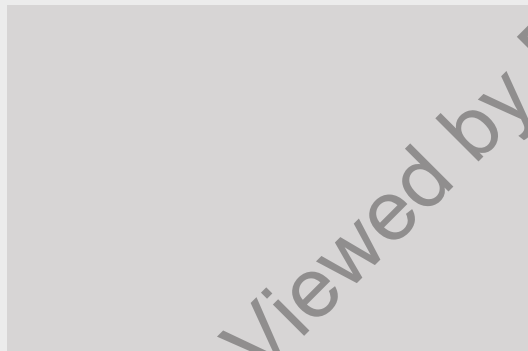
[TAKE THE QUIZ >](#)



## Name that Thing: Flower Edition

Can you correctly identify these flowers?

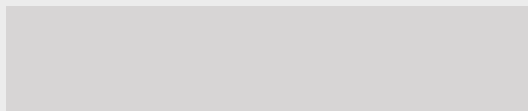
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## Spell It

Can you spell these 10 commonly misspelled words?

[TAKE THE QUIZ >](#)



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