

sail 1 of 2 noun

'sāl as last element in compounds often səl

Synonyms of *sail* >

1 a (1) : an extent of fabric (such as canvas) by means of which wind is used to propel a ship through water

(2) : the sails of a ship

b plural usually sail : a ship equipped with sails

2 : an extent of fabric used in propelling a wind-driven vehicle (such as an iceboat)


3 : something that resembles a sail

especially : a streamlined conning tower on a submarine

4 : a passage by a sailing craft : CRUISE

'sāld adjective

Illustration of *sail*

 Illustration of sail

1 flying jib

3 forestaysail

5 fore gaff-topsail

7 mainsail

2 jib

4 foresail

6 main-topmast staysail

8 main gaff-topsail

sail 2 of 2 verb

sailed; sailing; sails

Intransitive verb

1 a : to travel on water in a ship

b : YACHT

2 a : to travel on water by the action of wind upon sails or by other means

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c : to move through the air
the ball *sailed* over his head

3 : to begin a water voyage
sail with the tide

transitive verb

1 a : to travel on (water) by means of motive power (such as sail)
sail the ocean

b : to glide through

2 : to direct or manage the motion of
sail a ship

'sā-lə-bəl  **adjective**

Phrases

under sail

: in motion with sails set

sail into

: to attack vigorously or sharply
sailed into me for being late

Noun

crossing	cruise
passage	voyage

Verb

boat	cruise
ferry	navigate
ship (out)	voyage

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raising and lowering the ship's sails

a *sail* to San Francisco

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Noun

And unlike the Life at Sea cruise that never set *sail*, this cruise will offer a more flexible pricing plan.

– Chris Morris, *Fortune*, 14 Dec. 2023

Life at Sea Cruises' three-year cruise scheduled to set *sail* this month has officially been canceled.

– Bailey Richards, *Peoplemag*, 27 Nov. 2023

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Etymology

Noun

Middle English, from Old English *segl*; akin to Old High German *segal* sail

First Known Use

Noun

before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1a(1)

Verb

before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at intransitive sense 1a

Time Traveler

The first known use of *sail* was before the 12th century

See more words from the same century

solar sail

make sail

sail through

sail into

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Saigon cinnamon

sail

sailage

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Style

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sail 1 of 2 **noun**

'sā(ə)l  as last element in compounds often səl

1 a : a sheet of fabric (as canvas) used to catch wind to move a craft through water or over ice

b : the sails of a ship
under full *sail*

c plural usually sail : a ship with sails

2 : something like a sail

3 : a journey by ship

sail 2 of 2 **verb**

1 : to travel on water in a ship

sail the seas

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4 : to manage the sailing of



- English: Translation of *sail* for Spanish Speakers
- Britannica English: Translation of *sail* for Arabic Speakers
- Britannica.com: Encyclopedia article about *sail*

Last Updated: 21 Dec 2023 - Updated example sentences

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Quordle

W	O	R	D	Y
L	O	V	E	R
P	L	A	Y	S
D	A	I	L	Y

Can you solve 4 words at once?

Play

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