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encephalitis





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encephalitis

noun

en·ceph·a·li·tis | \ in-,se-fə-'lī-təs  \
 plural encephalitudes \ in-,se-fə-'li-tə-,dēz  \
 \

Definition of *encephalitis*


: inflammation of the brain that is caused especially by infection with a virus (such as herpes simplex or West Nile virus) or less commonly by bacterial or fungal infection or autoimmune reaction

Note: Encephalitis may be asymptomatic or present with mild to severe symptoms (such as fever, headache, confusion, seizures, or loss of consciousness) sometimes progressing to coma or death.

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Other Words from *encephalitis*

encephalitic \ in-,se-fə-'li-tik  \
 \ adjective

Examples of *encephalitis* in a Sentence

Recent Examples on the Web

Currently, Houston Methodist researcher Dr. Joseph Masdeu is conducting a study to help doctors refine the diagnostic techniques for anti-NDMA receptor *encephalitis*.— [Houston Chronicle, "New Netflix movie explores disease studied by Houston doctor," 2 July 2018](#) But more rare and serious complications may occur, such as pneumonia and *encephalitis* (a potentially life-threatening swelling of the brain), according to the CDC.— [Carolyn L. Todd, SELF, "Passengers on 4 Southwest Flights Possibly Exposed to Measles," 11 Sep. 2018](#)

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

1843, in the meaning defined [above](#)

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The first known use of *encephalitis* was in 1843


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[noun](#)

en·ceph·a·li·tis | \ in-,sef-ə-'līt-əs  \


plural encephalities \ -'lit-ə-,dēz  \

Medical Definition of *encephalitis*

: inflammation of the brain that is caused especially by infection with a virus (such as herpes simplex, varicella zoster, or West Nile virus) or less commonly by bacterial or fungal infection or autoimmune reaction

Note: Encephalitis may be asymptomatic or present with mild to severe symptoms (such as fever, headache, confusion, seizures, or loss of consciousness) sometimes progressing to coma or death.

Other Words from *encephalitis*

encephalitic \ -'lit-ik  \ adjective

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minion

a servile follower or underling

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-

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**minutes,
to a disaster**

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5

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The News On 'Nontrov

Nothing to see here

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Comedian ISMO on what separates a boot from a trunk.



Some Odd Words with ISMO: "People Tipping"

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Valentine's Day Quiz

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