

willful

adjective | will-ful | \'wil-fəl\

variants: or wilful

Popularity: Top 40% of words | Updated on: 27 May 2018

Tip: Synonym Guide

Examples: WILLFUL in a Sentence

Definition of WILLFUL

- 1 : obstinately and often perversely self-willed a stubborn and willful child
- 2 done deliberately: <u>INTENTIONAL</u> willful disobedience
 - —willfully \'wil-fə-lē\ adverb
 - -willfulness noun



Examples of WILLFUL in a Sentence

a stubborn and willful child

He has shown a willful disregard for other people's feelings.

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Recent Examples of WILLFUL from the Web

That a single British woman in the game's reveal trailer has Battlefield players so riled up is *willful* ignorance that such a role could have ever existed in history.

—Megan Farokhmanesh, The Verge, "Battlefield V fans who failed history are mad the game has women in it," 24 May 2018 mp's obsession with Bezos and Amazon follows a pattern of SINCE 1828 MEN Webster ul ignorance.

—<u>Elizabeth Drew, The New Republic, "The Number of Trump's</u>
<u>Impeachable Offenses Keeps Growing," 22 May 2018</u>

But to refuse taking even commonsense measures to restrict access to guns for people who, history suggests, are more likely commit these acts, is *willful* blindness, gun control advocates say.

— Chris Cillizza, CNN, "6 GOP talking points that show why the gun control debate isn't changing anytime soon." 21 May 2018

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

First Known Use of WILLFUL

13th century

in the meaning defined at sense 1

See Words from the same year

WILLFUL Synonyms

Synonyms

balky, contrary, contumacious, defiant, disobedient, froward, incompliant, insubordinate, intractable, obstreperous, rebel, rebellious, recalcitrant, refractory, restive, ungovernable, unruly

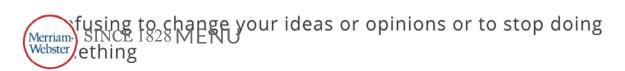
Merriam SINCE 1828 MENUON of WILLFUL

UNRULY, UNGOVERNABLE, INTRACTABLE, REFRACTORY, RECALCITRANT, WILLFUL, HEADSTRONG mean not submissive to government or control. **UNRULY** implies lack of discipline or incapacity for discipline and often connotes waywardness or turbulence of behavior. (• unruly children) UNGOVERNABLE implies either an escape from control or guidance or a state of being unsubdued and incapable of controlling oneself or being controlled by others. (• ungovernable rage) INTRACTABLE suggests stubborn resistance to guidance or control. (• intractable opponents of the hazardous-waste dump) <u>REFRACTORY</u> stresses resistance to attempts to manage or to mold. (• special schools for refractory children) RECALCITRANT suggests determined resistance to or defiance of authority. (• acts of sabotage by a recalcitrant populace) WILLFUL implies an obstinate determination to have one's own way. (• a willful disregard for the rights of others) **HEADSTRONG** suggests selfwill impatient of restraint, advice, or suggestion. (• a headstrong young cavalry officer>

WILLFUL Defined for English Language Learners



Definition of WILLFUL for English Language Learners



: done deliberately

WILLFUL Defined for Kids

willful

adjective | will·fu

variants: or wilful \'wil-fəl\

Definition of WILLFUL for Students

1 : <u>STUBBORN</u> 1 • *willful* children

2 : <u>INTENTIONAL</u> • willful disobedience

-willfully \-fə-lē\ adverb

-willfulness noun

Law Dictionary

willful

adjective | will-ful

variants: or wilful \'wil-fəl\

Merrian SINCE 1828 MEN OF WILLFUL

: not accidental: done deliberately or knowingly and often in conscious violation or disregard of the law, duty, or the rights of others • willful injury

- —willfully adverb
- -willfulness noun

Learn More about WILLFUL

See words that rhyme with willful

Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for willful

Spanish Central: Translation of willful

Nglish: <u>Translation of willful for Spanish speakers</u>

Britannica English: Translation of willful for Arabic speakers

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WORD OF THE DAY

whelm

to engulf or overwhelm

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TRENDING NOW

1 clemency

'merciful treatment of someone who could be given harsh punishme...

2 suborn

'to induce to commit perjury'

3 abhorrent

'causing or deserving strong dislike or hatred'

4 embolization

the process by which a blood vessel or organ is obstructed by a mat...

5 oleaginous

'marked by an offensively ingratiating manner or quality'

SEE ALL



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willeyer

willful

Willgerodt-Kindler reaction

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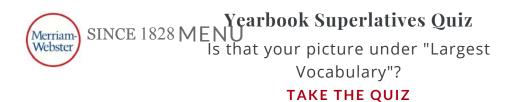


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