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 DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

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 Erik Nelson, Agent  
 10200 S Roberts Road  
 Palos Hills, IL 60465


# rectify 🔊

*verb* | *rec-ti-fy* | \ˈrek-tə-,fɪ\

Popularity: Top 30% of words

[Tip: Synonym Guide](#) ▢
[Examples: RECTIFY in a Sentence](#) ▢
[Editor's Note: Did You Know?](#) ▢

## Definition of RECTIFY

rectified; rectifying

**transitive verb**

- 1 : to set right : **REMEDY**
- 2 : to purify especially by repeated or fractional distillation ■ *rectified*
- 3 : to correct by removing errors : **ADJUST** ■ *rectify* the calendar
- 4 : to make (an alternating current) unidirectional

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Words of the Year: 1066

Words of the Year:  
1066

—rectification  \,rek-tə-fə-'kā-shən\ *noun*

## NEW! Time Traveler

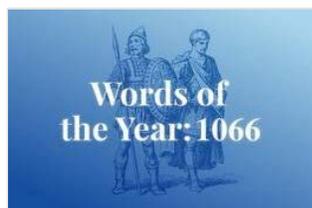
First Known Use: circa 1529

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See *rectify* defined for English-language learners

See *rectify* defined for kids

### From the M-W Editors



Words of the Year: 1066



Trending: McCain: Half-Baked, 'Spurious'

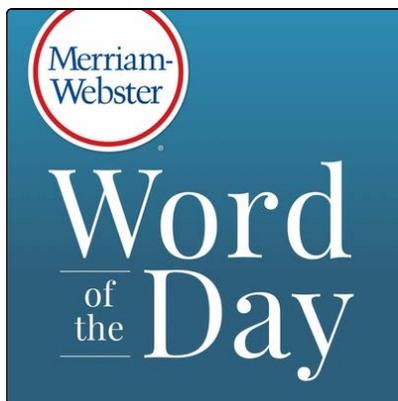


Forms of Government Quiz



'Spox' May Go On T Record

**RECTIFY was our Word of the Day on 08/09/2016. Hear the podcast!**



rectify

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00:00 / 02:46

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## Examples of RECTIFY in a Sentence

The hotel management promised to *rectify* the problem.

let me get the store manager, and he'll *rectify* the invoice for your order

## Recent Examples of RECTIFY from the Web

MPD worked in true collaboration with DOJ consultants to *rectify* these errors.

— *jsonline.com*, "Trust damaged between Milwaukee police and community, Department of Justice draft report s  
30 Aug. 2017

Sentenced to life imprisonment for first-degree rape, despite the lack of any physical evidence, Grimes believes prosecutors will realize and *rectify* their mistake.

— Claudia Rowe, *The Seattle Times*, "'Ghost of the Innocent Man' takes an important, infuriating look at a wrong conviction," 27 Aug. 2017

Inspections would be triggered by complaints, and if a problem were identified and not *rectified*, a reinspection fee of \$150 could apply for the first rental unit, plus \$100 for each additional unit.

— Lynn Horsley, *kansascity*, "Complaints prompt proposal for KC rental inspection fee," 11 Aug. 2017



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

## Did You Know?

Which of the following words does not share its ancestry with *rectify*—*direct*, *regimen*, *obstruct*, *correct*, *resurrection*? Like *rectify*, four of these words ultimately come from Latin *regere*, which can mean "to lead straight," "to direct," or "to rule." *Correct* and *direct* come from *regere* via Latin *corrigere* and *dirigere*, respectively. *Resurrection* comes from Latin *resurgere*, whose stem *surgere*, meaning "to rise," is a combination of *sub-* and *regere*. *Regimen* is from Latin *regimen* ("position of authority," "direction," "set rules"), itself from *regere*. And *rectify* is from *regere* by way of Latin *rectus* ("right"). *Obstruct* is the only the set that has no relation to *rectify*. It traces back to Latin *struere*, meaning "to build" or "to heap up."

## Origin and Etymology of RECTIFY

Middle English *rectifien*, from Anglo-French *rectifier*, from Medieval Latin *rectificare*, from Latin *rectus* right; more at **RIGHT**

## NEW! Time Traveler

First Known Use: circa 1529

**SEE WORDS FROM THE SAME YEAR >**



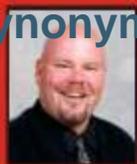
## RECTIFY Synonyms

Synonyms

amend, debug, emend, correct, red-pencil, reform, remedy

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**State Farm**

rewrite; blue-pencil, cut, shorten; redress, right; ameliorate, better

## Synonym Discussion of RECTIFY

**REDRESS, AMEND, REFORM, REVISE** mean to make right what is wrong or to correct the errors, faults, deviations, defects.  **correct** your spelling  **rectify** make something right, just, or properly controlled or directed.  **rectify** implies correction of a text or manuscript.  **emend** a text  **REMEDY** implies removing or making harmless a cause of trouble, harm, or evil.  **rectify** set out to **remedy** the evils of the world  **REDRESS** implies making compensation or reparation for an unfairness, injustice, or imbalance.  **redress** past social injustices  **AMEND, REFORM, REVISE** imply an improving by making corrective changes  **AMEND** usually suggesting slight changes  **amend** a law  **REFORM** implying drastic change  **plan**

# euphony



the court system, and **REVISE** suggesting a careful examination of something and the making of necessary changes. **revise** the schedule  
pleasing or sweet sound

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## RECTIFY Defined for English Language Learners



# rectify



verb

## Definition of RECTIFY for English Language Learners

### TRENDING NOW

#### 1 spurious

of a deceitful nature or quality

#### 2 righteous

We provide an assortment of definitions

#### 3 Kafkaesque

'A nightmarish quality'

#### 4 mike

"microphone"

## Definition of RECTIFY for Students

#### 5 moron

"a very stupid person"  
rectified, rectifying

: to set or make right **SEE ALSO** > She promised to *rectify* the problem.

## RECTIFY Defined for Kids

# rectify



verb | rec-ti-fy | \ˈrek-tə-ˌfī\

### BROWSE DICTIONARY

rectifier

rectifier instrument

## Medical Dictionary

# rectify

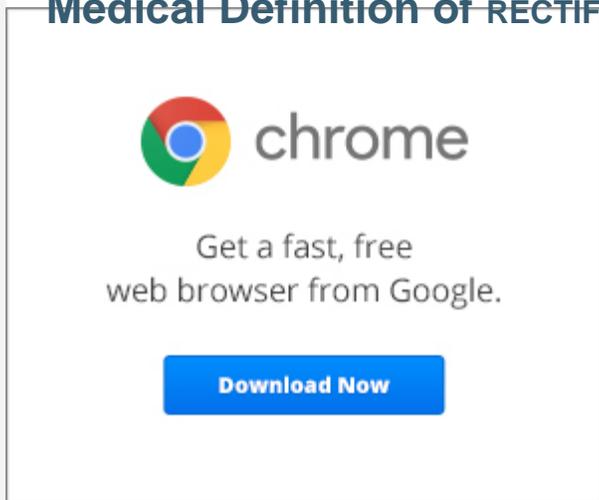
rectigrade

rectilinear

# rectify

transitive verb | rec-ti-fy | \ˈrek-tə-,fɪ\

### Medical Definition of RECTIFY



chrome

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by repeated or fractional distillation

unidirectional

### TEST YOUR VOCABULARY

## Learn More about RECTIFY

Forms of Government Quiz

See words that rhyme with *rectify*



All synonyms and antonyms for *rectify*

Spanish Central: Translation of *rectify*

Nglish: Translation of *rectify* for Spanish speakers

Britannica English: Translation of *rectify* for Arabic speakers



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## Seen and Heard



Test Your Knowledge - and learn some interesting things along the way - you want to look up *rectify*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the source, if possible).

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### WORDS AT PLAY



#### 'Spox' May Go On The Record

From newsroom lingo to the mainstream



#### C'mon, Of Course 'Myriad' Is a Noun

For a myriad of reasons



#### 'Gamut' and 'Gambit' (and 'Gauntlet' Too)

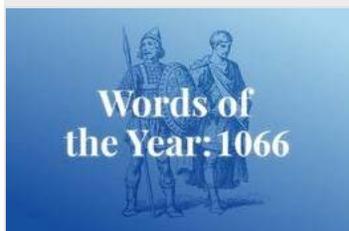
Know when to use (or run) each.



#### 17 English Words that Come From Japanese

Some borrowed words don't get returned

### ASK THE EDITORS



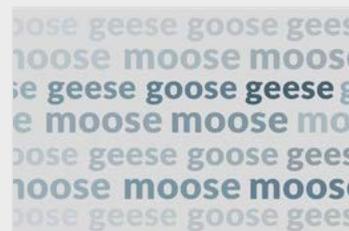
#### Words of the Year:



#### How Often Is



#### Irregardless



#### Weird Plurals

1066

Or, Why Pig Meat is Called 'Pork' and Cow...

'Biweekly'?

Don't get us started on 'bimonthly'

It is in fact a real word (but that doesn't mean...

One goose, two geese. One moose, two... ...

WORD GAMES



Forms of Government Quiz

Name that government! Or something like that. [TAKE THE QUIZ >](#)



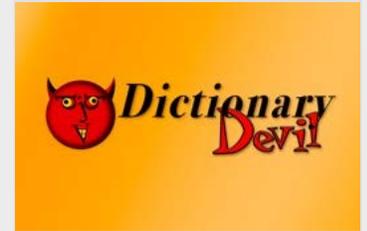
Original Meanings Quiz

A quiz for the pedantic and those annoyed by... [TAKE THE QUIZ >](#)



Name That Thing

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Dictionary Devil

The dictionary has been scrambled—can you put... [PLAY THE GAME >](#)



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