



Dictionary **Thesaurus** Medical Scrabble® Spanish Central

Browse Dictionary | Browse Thesaurus

line

Get our free apps! iPhone iPad

**MONSTER JOBS ON MONSTER**

- ▶ Director of Constructi..., Ingleside at... Washington, DC
- ▶ DevOps Engineer, Government CIO washington, DC
- ▶ Information Assurance ..., Chenega Corp... Washington, DC

Interest based ad [Search Jobs >>](#)

 Games |  Word of the Day |  Video |  Blog: Words at Play |  My Faves

Dictionary

line 

noun, often attributive | \ˈlɪn\

SAVE POPULARITY  

- : a long narrow mark on a surface
- : a mark on the ground that shows the edge of the playing area in a sport
- : an area or border that separates two places



Is It 'Attorney Generals' Or 'Attorneys General'? »

Full Definition of LINE

- a** : a length of cord or cord-like material: as (1) : a comparatively strong slender cord (2) : [CLOTHESLINE](#) (3) : a rope used on shipboard

**b** (1) : a device for catching fish consisting of a cord with hooks and other fishing gear (2) : scope for activity : [ROPE](#)

**c** : a length of material used in measuring and leveling

**d** (1) : piping for conveying a fluid (as steam) (2) : a narrow short synthetic tube that is inserted approximately one inch into a vein (as of the arm) to provide temporary intravenous access for the administration of fluid, medication, or nutrients

**e** (1) : a wire or pair of wires connecting one telegraph or telephone station with another or a whole system of such wires; *also* : any circuit in an electronic communication system (2) : a telephone connection <tried to get a *line*>; *also* : an individual telephone extension <a call on *line* 2> (3) : the principal circuits of an electric power system
- a** (1) : a horizontal row of written or printed characters; *also* : a blank row in lieu of such characters (2) : a unit in the rhythmic structure of verse formed by the grouping of a number of the smallest units of the rhythm (as metrical feet) (3) : a distinct segment of a computer program containing a single command or a small number of commands

**b** : a short letter : [NOTE](#)

**c plural** : a certificate of marriage

**d** : the words making up a part in a drama —usually used in plural

**e** : any of the successive horizontal rows of picture elements on the screen of a cathode-ray tube (as a television screen)
- a** : something (as a ridge or seam) that is distinct, elongated, and narrow

**b** : a narrow crease (as on the face) : [WRINKLE](#)

**c** : the course or direction of something in motion : [ROUTE](#)

**d** (1) : a state of agreement or conformity : [ACCORDANCE](#) (2) : a state of order, control, or obedience <wouldn't let them get out of *line*>

**e** (1) : a boundary of an area <the state *line*> (2) : [DISTINCTION 2](#) <the fine *line* between love and hate>

Word of the Day | SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

**haptic** 

relating to the sense of touch

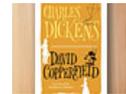
Get the Word of the Day daily email!

Your email address

Words at Play



Koru: Words We're Watching



A Who's Who of Literary Allusions

**Furr's** LIMITED TIME ONLY

FRESH BUFFET

**SUMMER SIZZLES HERE**

With Our Sweet Mesquite Barbeque!

**GARLAND**  
1-635 (LBJ Freeway) & Saturn Rd.

[CLICK FOR DETAILS](#)

Word Games

Take a 3-minute break and test your skills!

Name That Thing



**f** : the track and roadbed of a railway

**g** : an amount of cocaine that is arranged in a line to be inhaled through the nose

**4 a** : a course of conduct, action, or thought; *especially* : an official or public position <the party *line*>

**b** : a field of activity or interest

**c** : a glib often persuasive way of talking

**5 a** : [LIMIT](#), [RESTRAINT](#)

**b** *archaic* : position in life : [LOT](#)

**6 a** (1) : [FAMILY](#), [LINEAGE](#) (2) : a strain produced and maintained especially by selective breeding or biological culture (3) : a chronological series

**b** : dispositions made to cover extended military positions and presenting a front to the enemy — usually used in plural

**c** : a military formation in which the different elements are abreast of each other

**d** : naval ships arranged in a regular order

**e** (1) : the combatant forces of an army distinguished from the staff corps and supply services (2) : the force of a regular navy

**f** (1) : officers of the navy eligible for command at sea distinguished from officers of the staff (2) : officers of the army belonging to a combatant branch

**g** : an arrangement or placement of persons or objects of one kind in an orderly series <a *line* of trees> <stand on *line*> <waiting in *line*>; *also* : the persons or objects so positioned <the *line* moved slowly at the bank>

**h** (1) : a group of public conveyances plying regularly under one management over a route (2) : a system of transportation together with its equipment, routes, and appurtenances; *also* : the company owning or operating it

**i** : a succession of musical notes especially considered in melodic phrases

**j** (1) : an arrangement of operations in manufacturing permitting sequential occurrence on various stages of production (2) : the personnel of an organization that are responsible for its stated objective

**k** (1) : the seven players including center, two guards, two tackles, and two ends who in offensive football play line up on or within one foot of the line of scrimmage (2) : the players who in defensive play line up within one yard of the line of scrimmage

**l** : a group of three players including a left winger, center, and right winger who play together as a unit in hockey

**7** : a narrow elongated mark drawn or projected: as

**a** (1) : a circle of latitude or longitude on a map (2) : [EQUATOR](#)

**b** : a mark (as on a map) recording a boundary, division, or contour

**c** : any of the horizontal parallel strokes on a music staff on or between which notes are placed — compare [SPACE](#)

**d** : a mark (as by pencil) that forms part of the formal design of a picture distinguished from the shading or color

**e** : a division on a bridge score dividing the score for bonuses from that for tricks

**f** (1) : a demarcation of a limit with reference to which the playing of some game or sport is regulated —usually used in combination (2) : a marked or imaginary line across a playing area (as a football field) parallel to the end line (3) : [LINE OF SCRIMMAGE](#)

**8** : a straight or curved geometric element that is generated by a moving point and that has extension only along the path of the point : [CURVE](#)

**9 a** : a defining outline : [CONTOUR](#)

**b** : a general plan : [MODEL](#) —usually used in plural

**10 a** *chiefly British* : [FCA](#) —used to indicate the size of large type

**b** : the unit of fineness of halftones expressed as the number of screen [lines](#) to the [linear](#) inch

**11** : merchandise or services of the same general class for sale or regularly available

**12 a** : a source of information : [INSIGHT](#)

True or False?



Spell It



Trend Watch



Refugee

Thousands of Syrians look for safety in Europe ...

**b** : betting odds offered by a bookmaker especially on a sporting event

**13** : a complete game of 10 frames in bowling —called also *string*

**14** : **LINE DRIVE**

— *līn* also *lin·ey*  | \ ˈlɪ-nē\ | *adjective*

— **between the lines**

- 1 : by implication : in an indirect way
- 2 : by way of inference

— **down the line**

- 1 : all the way : **FULLY**
- 2 : in the future

— **in line for**

: due or in a position to receive

— **on line**

: in or into operation

— **on the line**

- 1 : at great risk <puts his future *on the line* by backing that policy>
- 2 : on the border between two categories

See [line](#) defined for English-language learners »

See [line](#) defined for kids »

## Examples of LINE

I drew a straight *line* down the page to separate the two lists.

Cut the paper along the dotted *line*.

a tennis serve that was over the *line*

After three hours on the road, they finally crossed the state *line*.

Their yards were separated by a *line* of trees.

Everybody had to *get in line* and wait their turn.

The people were *waiting in line*.

## Ask The Editor Videos



Lay vs. Lie

'Try and' vs. 'Try to'



## Origin of LINE

Middle English; partly from Anglo-French *lingne*, from Latin *linea*, from feminine of *lineus* made of flax, from *linum* flax; partly from Old English *līne*; akin to Old English *līn* flax — more at [LINEN](#)

First Known Use: before 12th century

## Related to LINE

Synonyms

[column](#), [cue](#), [file](#), [queue](#), [range](#), [string](#), [train](#)

Antonyms

[issue](#), [posterity](#), [progeny](#), [seed](#)

[+] [more](#)

Rhymes with LINE

bine, brine, chine, cline, dine, dyne, fine, Jain, Main, mine, nine, pine, Quine, Rhine, rind, shine, shrine, sign, spine, spline, stein, swine, syne, thine, tine, trine, twine, vine, whine, wine

## 2 line

verb

**lined** **lin·ing**

Definition of LINE

*transitive verb*

- 1 : to mark or cover with a line or lines <lined paper>
- 2 : to depict with lines : [DRAW](#)
- 3 : to place or form a line along <pedestrians *line* the walks>
- 4 : to form into a line or lines : [ALIGN](#) <*line* up troops>
- 5 : to hit (as a baseball) hard and in a usually straight line

*intransitive verb*

- 1 : to hit a line drive in baseball
- 2 : to come into the correct relative position : [ALIGN](#)

First Known Use of LINE

1530

## 3 line

verb

**lined** **lin·ing**

Definition of LINE

*transitive verb*

- 1 : to cover the inner surface of <*line* a cloak with silk>
- 2 : to put something in the inside of : [FILL](#)
- 3 : to serve as the lining of <tapestries *lined* the walls>
- 4 *obsolete* : [FORTIFY](#)

— **line one's pockets**  
: to take money freely and especially dishonestly

Origin of LINE

Middle English, from *line* flax, from Old English *līn*  
First Known Use: 14th century

LINE Defined for Kids

## 1 line

noun | \ˈlīn\

## Definition of LINE for Kids

- 1 : a long thin cord or rope <fishing *lines*> <Hang your clothes on the *line*.>
- 2 : a long narrow mark <Draw a *line* on your paper.>
- 3 : an arrangement of people or things in a row <We waited in *line*.>
- 4 : a row of letters, words, or musical notes across a page or column
- 5 : the boundary or limit of a place <the town *line*>
- 6 : FAMILY 2 <He comes from a long *line* of farmers.>
- 7 : a way of behaving or thinking <He took a firm *line* with his son.>
- 8 : <sup>1</sup>OUTLINE 1, CONTOUR <The sailboat has beautiful *lines*.>
- 9 : an area of activity or interest <What *line* of work are you in?>
- 10 : the position of military forces who are facing the enemy
- 11 : a pipe carrying a fluid (as steam, water, or oil)
- 12 : an outdoor wire carrying electricity or a telephone signal
- 13 **lines plural** : the words of a part in a play
- 14 : the path along which something moves or is directed <It's in my *line* of vision.>
- 15 : the track of a railway
- 16 : AGREEMENT 1, HARMONY <They tried to bring their ideas into *line*.>
- 17 : a system of transportation <a bus *line*>
- 18 : the football players whose positions are along the line of scrimmage
- 19 : a geometric element produced by moving a point
- 20 : a plan for making or doing something <I wrote a story along these *lines*.>

## <sup>2</sup>line

*verb*

**lined** **lin·ing**

## Definition of LINE for Kids

- 1 : to indicate with or draw a long narrow mark
- 2 : to place or be placed in a row along <Shops *line* the street.>
  - **line up**
    - 1 : to gather or arrange in a row or rows <The children *lined up*.>
    - 2 : to put into alignment <Make sure the pieces *line up*.>

## <sup>3</sup>line

*verb*

**lined** **lin·ing**

## Definition of LINE for Kids

- : to cover the inner surface of <*line* a coat>

# line

noun | \ˈlīn\

## Medical Definition of LINE

- 1 : something (as a ridge, seam, mark, or streak) that is distinct, elongated, and narrow—see *linea*
- 2 : a strain produced and maintained especially by selective breeding or biological culture
- 3 : a narrow short synthetic tube (as of plastic) that is inserted approximately one inch into a vein (as of the arm) to provide temporary intravenous access for the administration of fluid, medication, or nutrients

## Learn More About LINE

-  Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for "line"](#)
-  Spanish Central: [Spanish translation of "line"](#)
-  Nglsh: [Translation of "line" for Spanish speakers](#)
-  Britannica English: [Translation of "line" for Arabic speakers](#)

## Browse

482 ENTRIES FOUND:

- line**
- [line ahead](#)
- [line block](#)
- [line bonus](#)
- [line camp](#)

Next Word in the Dictionary: [lineable](#)  
 Previous Word in the Dictionary: [Lindy](#)  
 All Words Near: [line](#)

Around The Web

Sponsored Links by Taboola



**Taylor Swift Finally Reveals Her Outrageous Home (Photos)**

Lonny





An overlooked method to pay off your credit card balance

NextAdvisor



Does Your Card Really Only Pay 1 Mile Per Dollar?

LendingTree



Forget The iPhone 7. Next Apple Sensation Leaked

The Motley Fool

Seen & Heard

What made you want to look up *line*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

[View Seen & Heard Highlights from Around the Site »](#)



10 Charming Words for Nasty People

Put-downs with flair

[Learn More »](#)



When "Literally" isn't, well, literal

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

[Watch Now »](#)



Know what this is?

Test your vocab with our fun, fast game

[Go Play »](#)



Fear of cats?

Ailurophobia, and 9 other unusual fears

[Learn More »](#)

Join Us



Merriam-Webster on Facebook [»](#)



Merriam-Webster on Twitter [»](#)

Bookstore: Digital and Print

Merriam-Webster references for Mobile, Kindle, print, and more.

[See All](#) [»](#)

Other Merriam-Webster Dictionaries

[Spanish Central](#) [»](#)

[Learner's ESL Dictionary](#) [»](#)

[WordCentral for Kids](#) [»](#)

[Visual Dictionary](#) [»](#)

[SCRABBLE® Word Finder](#) [»](#)

[Webster's Unabridged Dictionary](#) [»](#)

[Britannica English - Arabic Translation](#) [»](#)

[NGLISH - Spanish-English Translation](#) [»](#)

[Home](#) • [Help](#) • [About Us](#) • [Shop](#) • [Advertising Info](#) • [Dictionary API](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [Terms of Use](#)  
[About Our Ads](#) • [Contact Us](#) • [Browser Tools](#) • [The Open Dictionary](#)

© 2015 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

[Browse the Dictionary](#) • [Browse the Thesaurus](#) • [Browse the Spanish-English Dictionary](#) • [Browse the Medical Dictionary](#)