Definition of “liability” - English Dictionary

"liability" in American English

See all translations

liability
noun [C/U]  US /ˌlaɪəˈbɪləti/  UK /ˌlɑɪəˈbɪləti/

› the responsibility of a person, business, or organization to pay or give up something of value:
[U] He denies any liability in the accident.
[C usually pl] The business has liabilities of $5 million.

› A liability is also anything that hurts your chances of success or that causes difficulties:
[C] Not having our own delivery trucks is a liability in our business.

(Definition of liability from the Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary © Cambridge University Press)

"liability" in British English

See all translations

liability
noun  UK /ˌləˈbɪlɪtɪ/  US /ˈlɑːbɪlɪtɪ/

liability noun (RESPONSIBILITY)
[C] the fact that someone is legally responsible for something:
He denies any liability for the damage caused.

liabilities [plural] SPECIALIZED
› debts:
The business has liabilities of 2 million euros.
Compare asset

More examples

liability noun (RISK)
[C] something or someone that causes you a lot of trouble, often when that thing or person should be helping you:
After a certain age, a car's just a liability.
Sue always manages to upset somebody when we go out - she's a real liability.

(Definition of liability from the Cambridge Advanced Learners Dictionary & Thesaurus © Cambridge University Press)

Translations of “liability”

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legal liability
fixed liability
civil liability
public liability
joint liability
strict liability
tax liability

See all meanings »

SMART Thesaurus: Duty, obligation and responsibility

"liability": synonyms and related words:
accountable answer for sb/sth answer to sb/sth answerable
brother commitment fail have sth on your hands idiom I am not my brother's keeper idiom in the hot seat idiom in charge it's your own lookout idiom portfolio responsible risk saddle sb with sth social contract stick stick sb with sth

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• Borrowing & lending
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