liable

adjective  li·a·ble  
\ˈlī-ə-bəl, especially in sense 2 often ˈlī-bəl\

: legally responsible for something
: likely to be affected or harmed by something
: likely to do something

Definition of LIABLE

1 a : obligated according to law or equity : RESPONSIBLE
   b : subject to appropriation or attachment

2 a : being in a position to incur —used with to <liable to a fine>
   b : exposed or subject to some usually adverse contingency or action <watch out or you're liable to fail>

See liable defined for English-language learners
See liable defined for kids

Usage Discussion of LIABLE

Both liable and apt when followed by an infinitive are used nearly interchangeably with likely. Although conflicting advice has been given over the years, most current commentators accept apt when so used. They generally recommend limiting liable to situations having an undesirable outcome, and our evidence shows that in edited writing it is more often so used than not.

Examples of LIABLE

If someone gets hurt on your property, you could be liable.
<because of his frail constitution, he's liable to diseases>

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jackleg  
makeshift or lacking skill or training

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13 Comments

Airam Edlazap · Miskatonic University

Normally slander means to falsely accuse sb of a crime orally, and libel, to publish a false accusation of a crime, check the OED, for slander see esp. meaning Nº 5 and for libel, Nº 2

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## Origin of LIABLE

Middle English *liable*, from Anglo-French *liable*, from Latin *ligare* — more at LIGATURE

First Known Use: 15th century

## Related to LIABLE

### Synonyms
- endangered, exposed, open, sensitive, subject (to), susceptible, vulnerable, at risk, in deep water, in jeopardy

### Antonyms
- insusceptible, invulnerable, unexposed, unsusceptible

[* more

## Synonym Discussion of LIABLE

LIABLE, OPEN, EXPOSED, SUBJECT, PRONE, SUSCEPTIBLE, SENSITIVE mean being by nature or through circumstances likely to experience something adverse. LIABLE implies a possibility or probability of incurring something because of position, nature, or particular situation (<i>liable to get lost</i>). OPEN stresses a lack of barriers preventing incurrence (<i>a claim open to question</i>). EXPOSED suggests lack of protection or power of resistance against something actually present or threatening (<i>exposed to infection</i>). SUBJECT implies an openness for any reason to something that must be suffered or undergone (<i>liable to injury</i>). PRONE stresses natural tendency or propensity to incur something (<i>prone to delay</i>). SUSCEPTIBLE implies conditions existing in one's nature or individual constitution that make incurrence probable (<i>very susceptible to flattery</i>). SENSITIVE implies a readiness to respond to or be influenced by forces or stimuli (<i>unduly sensitive to criticism</i>.

**synonyms** see in addition RESPONSIBLE

Both liable and apt when followed by an infinitive are used nearly interchangeably with likely. Although conflicting advice has been given over the years, most current commentators accept apt when so used. They generally recommend limiting liable to situations having an undesirable outcome, and our evidence shows that in edited writing it is more often so used than not.

## Rhymes with LIABLE

dryable, dyeable, flyable, friable, pliable, triable, viable

## LIABLE Defined for Kids

### liable

**adjective**  
li-a-ble  
\l\-i-a-bal\n
**Definition of LIABLE for Kids**

1: LIKELY 1 (<i>it's liable to rain</i>.)

2: judged by law to be responsible for something (<i>we are liable for damage that we did</i>.)

3: not sheltered or protected (as from danger or accident) (<i>liable to injury</i>)

Learn More About LIABLE
Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for "liable"
Spanish Central: Spanish translation of "liable"
Nglish: Translation of "liable" for Spanish speakers
Britannica English: Translation of "liable" for Arabic speakers

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Previous Word in the Dictionary: liability limit
All Words Near: liable

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