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loan

[noun](#)

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\ 'lɔn  \

Definition of *loan*

(Entry 1 of 2)

1a : money lent at interest took out a loan to pay for the new car

b : something lent usually for the borrower's temporary use

2a : the grant of temporary use Can I have the loan of your car?

b : the temporary duty of a person transferred to another job for a limited time He had been on loan to the navy during the war.

3 : [loanword](#) The word "nosh" is a loan from Yiddish.

loan

[verb](#)

loaned; loaning; loans

Definition of *loan* (Entry 2 of 2)

[transitive verb](#)

: [lend](#)

[Other Words from *loan* Synonyms & Antonyms Loan vs. Lend: Usage Guide More Example Sentences Learn More about *loan*](#)

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Other Words from *loan*

Verb

loanable \ 'lō-nə-bəl  \ adjective

Synonyms & Antonyms for *loan*

Synonyms: Verb

- [advance](#),
- [lend](#)

Antonyms: Verb

- [borrow](#)

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Loan vs. Lend: Usage Guide

Verb

The verb *loan* is one of the words English settlers brought to America and continued to use after it had died out in Britain. Its use was soon noticed by British visitors and somewhat later by the New England literati, who considered it a bit provincial. It was flatly declared wrong in 1870 by a popular commentator, who based his objection on etymology. A later scholar showed that the commentator was ignorant of Old English and thus unsound in his objection, but by then it was too late, as the condemnation had been picked up by many other commentators. Although a surprising number of critics still voice objections, *loan* is entirely standard as a verb. You should note that it is used only literally; *lend* is the

verb used for figurative expressions, such as "lending a hand" or "lending enchantment."

Examples of *loan* in a Sentence

Noun He got a car *loan*. He'll need several more years to pay off the rest of the *loan*. She needed money, so she asked her friend for a *loan*. **Verb** The National Gallery has been kind enough to *loan* this painting to our museum. His mother *loaned* him the money to buy a new car. Can you *loan* me \$20?

See More  

Recent Examples on the Web: **Noun** The first round of help—the \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program, part of the CARES Act passed by Congress—disappeared in just 13 days, and tens of thousands of businesses never got their *loans*. — [Garrett M. Graff, *Wired*, "The Pandemic Slams Main Street: 'We're Trying to Stay Alive'," 8 May 2020](#) In 2007, after Citibank filed a foreclosure action on an unpaid \$500,000 mortgage *loan*, Mitnick and his wife sold their \$1.4 million Long Island home. — [Peter Elkind, *ProPublica*, "Meet the Shadowy Accountants Who Do Trump's Taxes and Help Him Seem Richer Than He Is," 8 May 2020](#) To qualify for a *loan*, each business must: Have a gross revenue of less than \$1 million. — [Hannah K. Sparling, *Cincinnati.com*, "Was your small business hurt by the coronavirus? You could get \\$10,000 from Hamilton County.," 8 May 2020](#) But playing Peter Pan and paying off my student *loans* are mutually exclusive. — [Anna Konradi, *Dallas News*, "Graduating into the pandemic world: Fear, uncertainty and a sense of sadness for experiences lost," 7 May 2020](#) The Treasury Department has called on such firms to return their *loans* and have extended a Thursday deadline to May 14. — [Washington Post, "Strips clubs, payday lenders, lobbyists fight to get emergency federal loans," 6 May 2020](#) The bill would pay remaining balances on all federal and private *loans* for health care workers treating COVID-19 patients. — [Benjamin Vanhoose, *PEOPLE.com*, "New Bill Would Erase Student Loan Debt for Health Care Workers Treating Coronavirus Patients," 6 May 2020](#) Katie and Adam are having financial problems in the beginning of the film and they're seen discussing paying off his student *loans*. — [Katherine Schaffstall, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'Riverdale' Star Camila Mendes on More Mature Role in 'Dangerous Lies': 'It Felt Nice to Graduate'," 1 May 2020](#) Nearly 4 million people, or just over 7% of mortgage holders, have sought relief on their home *loans* as of April 30, according to housing data provider Black Knight. — [Christopher J. Brooks, *CBS News*, "Nearly 4 million homeowners are no longer paying their mortgages," 1 May 2020](#) **Recent Examples on the Web:** **Verb** De La Fuente is preparing to spend money like a serious candidate, *loaning* himself more than \$300,000 for the Texas campaign, according to FEC data, and hiring a campaign manager based in Corpus Christi. — [Paul Cobler, *Dallas News*, "Political bigamy? South Texas congressional nominee just filed to run for yet another seat, in Miami," 29 Apr. 2020](#) Yang is among thousands of workers who were *loaned* by their employers to other companies, such as 7Fresh's owner, the e-commerce giant JD.com, which saw demand surge during the pandemic. — [Jane Li, *Quartz*, "Employee-sharing schemes are softening the blow for China's pandemic-hit businesses," 23 Apr. 2020](#) Klein also alleged in her lawsuit that Gores had instructed a former assistant to use company funds to hire prostitutes for him and others, and that the CEO had asked her to *loan* him money to make the company's finances look better for its bank. — [Wendy Lee, *Los Angeles Times*, "Paradigm calls former agent's allegations of company funds paying for prostitutes 'pure fabrication'," 9 Apr. 2020](#) Orlando City *loaned* him to Memphis 901 FC for most of the 2019 USL Championship season and declined his option at the end of the year, freeing him up to sign with Indy. — [Kevin Johnston, *Indianapolis Star*, "Indy Eleven's Cam Lindley, Andrew Carleton in same career stage yet totally different places," 9 Mar. 2020](#) That's on top of the \$350 billion that was *loaned* out in the first round of the program in a mere two weeks. — [Stephen Gandel, *CBS News*, "Round 2 of Paycheck Protection Program starts. Better hurry," 28 Apr. 2020](#) The loans went out at a dizzying speed and volume, dwarfing in days the amount the Small Business Administration usually *loans* out over the course of a year. — [William Thornton | *Wthornton@al.com*, *al*, "Alabama small businesses still waiting on \\$1 billion in loans," 24 Apr. 2020](#) Because the district is *loaning* out free computers and providing free broadband, extenuating circumstances are likely to be affecting the remainder. — [Howard Blume, *Los Angeles Times*, "L.A. school district confronts \\$200 million in coronavirus costs and a grim budget future," 20 Apr. 2020](#) Including loans, Collins has raised \$1.35 million for the cycle and *loaned* her campaign \$350,000. — [Tom Benning, *Dallas News*, "Allred tops Collins in first-quarter fundraising; Olson, Valenzuela haul in cash for Dem battle to take on Van Duyne," 15 Apr. 2020](#)

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

See More  

First Known Use of *loan*

Noun

12th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

Verb

circa 1543, in the meaning defined [above](#)

History and Etymology for *loan*

Noun

Middle English *lone* "something lent or owing, divine gift," borrowed from Old Norse *lán* "something lent, fief," going back to Germanic **laihna-* "something granted or lent" (whence also Old Frisian *lēn* "fief, benefice, something lent," Old Saxon *lēhan* "gift, fief," Old High German *lēhan*, *lēn* "something lent, feudal tenure, benefice," and, from a variant **laihni-*, Old English *lān* "something lent, grant, gift"), noun derivative from the verb **lihwān-* "to grant, lend" — more at [delinquent entry 2](#)

Note: Germanic **laihna-* appears directly comparable with the Indo-Iranian s-stem represented by Vedic Sanskrit *rékṇah* "inheritance, property," Avestan *raēxənah-* "inheritance," though it is uncertain if the Germanic word can also be derived from an s-stem. See note at [delinquent entry 2](#).

Verb

derivative of [loan entry 1](#)

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Time Traveler for *loan*



The first known use of *loan* was in the 12th century

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From the Editors at Merriam-Webster

[Loan vs. Lend](#)

[Loan vs. Lend](#)

['Loan' has been a verb in English for 700 years. So why are people still complaining about it?](#)

Dictionary Entries near *loan*

[loaminess](#)

[loamless](#)

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[loan](#)

[loanblend](#)

[loan crowd](#)

[lo and behold](#)

[See More Nearby Entries](#)

Phrases Related to *loan*

[bad loan](#)

[bank loan](#)

[bridging loan](#)

[home equity loan](#)

[home loan](#)

[on loan](#)

[personal loan](#)

Statistics for *loan*

Last Updated

14 May 2020

Look-up Popularity

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“Loan.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/loan>. Accessed 15 May. 2020.

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More Definitions for *loan*

loan

[noun](#)

Financial Definition of *loan*

What It Is

In the business world, a **loan** is an amount borrowed.

How It Works

Let's assume Company XYZ has invented a new product that will revolutionize the widget market. The company is sure there will be demand from billions of people around the world, and therefore it needs to build a new factory. If Company XYZ's funds for constructing the factory were limited to its [cash](#) on hand, say \$200,000, it certainly could not build the kind of factory it needs to [capitalize](#) on this tremendous opportunity and would thus be very limited in its output and profits (and would leave the market wide open for competitors to fill the void). With a loan, however, Company XYZ could build the factory and take advantage of the [profit](#) potential of its product. The debt essentially magnifies the profits.

In the business world, bank loans and corporate or [government bonds](#) are the most common. For individuals, loans can be personal loans, mortgages or lines of credit.

Why It Matters

A loan is a liability, meaning the lender has a claim on a company's assets. Loan payments due within one year are generally classified as short-term debt on a company's balance sheet. Loan payments due in more than one year are considered long-term debt. It is important to note that loans commonly come to mind when one considers liabilities, but not all liabilities are loans. Companies may incur other types of liabilities, including (but not limited to) upcoming [payroll](#), bonuses, legal settlements, payments to [vendors](#), certain [derivatives](#), contracts, certain types of leases, and required stock redemptions. Common [balance sheet](#) categories for liabilities include accounts payable, accrued expenses, and [debt](#).

Information about a company's debt is a key component of accurate financial reporting and a crucial part of thorough financial analysis. Excessive debt can ruin a company but is not always detrimental. The use of [debt financing](#) can magnify profits that would have otherwise gone unrealized.

Source: [Investing Answers](#)

term loan

[noun](#)

Financial Definition of *term loan*

What It Is

A **term loan** has a set [maturity date](#) and usually has a fixed interest rate.

How It Works

Let's say Company XYZ wants to borrow \$1 million to build a factory. It meets with its bank, ABC Bank, to negotiate the loan. The company and the bank agree to a 10-year [loan](#) with quarterly payments and a 7% interest rate.

Term loans often mature within 10 years, but this is [negotiable](#). They usually require [collateral](#). Not all banks make term loans, and an existing relationship with a bank is usually helpful.

Why It Matters

Term loans are very common, and they provide a level of certainty to the borrower and the lender. The borrower usually has access to the full amount of principal upfront, knows when to make payments, and knows how much to pay. The [lender](#) knows that the [principal](#) will be repaid over time on a regular basis.

Source: [Investing Answers](#)

loan

noun

English Language Learners Definition of *loan*

(Entry 1 of 2)

: an amount of money that is given to someone for a period of time with a promise that it will be paid back : an amount of money that is borrowed
somewhat formal : permission to use something for a period of time

loan

verb

English Language Learners Definition of *loan* (Entry 2 of 2)

: to give (something) to (someone) for a period of time
chiefly US : to give (money) to (someone) who agrees to pay it back in the future

[See the full definition for *loan* in the English Language Learners Dictionary](#)

loan

noun

\ 'lōn \

Kids Definition of *loan*

(Entry 1 of 2)

- 1 : money given with the understanding that it will be paid back
- 2 : something given for a time to a borrower That's not mine, it's a *loan*.
- 3 : permission to use something for a time May I have the *loan* of your car?

loan

[verb](#)

loaned; loaning

Kids Definition of *loan* (Entry 2 of 2)

: to give to another for temporary use with the understanding that the same or a like thing will be returned *loan* a book
loan money

Keep scrolling for more

loan

[noun](#)

Legal Definition of *loan*

1a : money lent at interest

b : something lent usually for the borrower's temporary use

2 : a transfer or delivery of money from one party to another with the express or implied agreement that the sum will be repaid regardless of contingency and usually with interest broadly : the furnishing of something to another party for temporary use with the agreement that it or its equivalent will be returned the leasing of the car was termed a loan

— **bridge loan**

: a short-term loan used as a means of financing a purchase or enterprise prior to obtaining other funds used a *bridge loan* to purchase a new home prior to the sale of the old one

— **conventional loan**

: a loan for the purchase of real property that is secured by a first mortgage on the property rather than by any federal agency

— **demand loan**

: a loan that is subject to repayment upon demand of the lender

— **home equity loan**

: a loan or line of credit secured by the equity in one's home

— called also equity loan, home equity line, home equity line of credit

— see also [qualified residence interest](#) at [interest sense 5](#)

— **loan for consumption** \ -kən- 'sümp-shən \

: a loan in which the borrower is obligated to return property of the same kind as that borrowed and consumed —used chiefly in the civil law of Louisiana ; — compare [bailment](#), [deposit](#), loan for use in this entry

— **loan for use**

: a loan in which one party lends personal property to another with the understanding that the borrower will return the same property at a future time without compensation for its use : [commodatum](#) —used chiefly in the civil law of Louisiana ; — compare [bailment](#), [deposit](#), loan for consumption in this entry

— **participation loan**

: a single loan in which two or more lenders participate

— **term loan**

: a loan extended to a business with provisions for repayment according to a schedule of amortization and usually for a

period of one to five years and sometimes fifteen years

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