



SINCE 1828

# avoid **verb**

\ ə-ˈvɔɪd \

**avoided; avoiding; avoids**

## Definition of *avoid*

*transitive verb*

- 1 a** : to keep away from : SHUN  
*// They have been **avoiding** me.*
- b** : to prevent the occurrence or effectiveness of  
*// **avoid** further delays*
- c** : to refrain from  
*// **avoid** overeating*
- 2** *law* : to make legally void (see VOID entry 1 sense 1a) : ANNUL  
*// **avoid** a plea*
- 3** *archaic* : to depart or withdraw from : LEAVE
- 4** *obsolete* : VOID, EXPEL

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not

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[Choose the Right Synonym](#)[More Example Sentences](#)[Learn More about \*avoid\*](#)

*Keep scrolling for more*

## Other Words from *avoid*

**avoidable** \ ə-'vɔɪ-də-bəl \ *adjective*

**avoidably** \ ə-'vɔɪ-də-blē \ *adverb*

**avoider** *noun*

## Synonyms for *avoid*

### Synonyms

dodge, duck, elude, escape, eschew, evade, finesse, get around, scape, shake, shirk, shuffle (out of), shun, weasel (out of)

[Visit the Thesaurus for More](#) 

## Choose the Right Synonym for *avoid*

ESCAPE, AVOID, EVADE, ELUDE, SHUN, ESCHEW mean to get away or keep away from something. ESCAPE stresses the fact of getting away or being passed by not necessarily through effort or by conscious intent. // *nothing escapes her sharp eyes* // AVOID stresses forethought and caution in keeping clear of danger or difficulty. // *try to avoid past errors* // EVADE implies adroitness, ingenuity, or lack of scruple in escaping or avoiding. // *evaded* the question by changing the subject // ELUDE implies

a slippery or baffling quality in the person or thing that escapes. // what she sees in him *eludes* me // SHUN often implies an avoiding as a matter of habitual practice or policy and may imply repugnance or abhorrence. // you have *shunned* your responsibilities // ESCHEW implies an avoiding or abstaining from as unwise or distasteful. // a playwright who *eschews* melodrama //

## Examples of *avoid* in a Sentence

- // Why do you keep *avoiding* me?
- // She took a detour to *avoid* the heavy traffic.
- // They successfully *avoided* each other for days.
- // He tried hard to *avoid* accidents.
- // We need to *avoid* further delays.
- // He was caught trying to *avoid* arrest.
- // in an effort to *avoid* confusion
- // I'm not going to be late if I can *avoid* it.
- // How can I *avoid* paying too much tax?
- // I am trying to *avoid* showing any hint of favoritism.

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## Recent Examples on the Web

// Boris Johnson, the front-runner in the race to become prime minister, is arguing that the worst consequences of leaving the European Union without a withdrawal accord could be *avoided*.

— *Washington Post*, "Why Article 24 Is No Soft Landing for a No-Deal Brexit," 18 Sep. 2019

// Carney has been diligently trying to deflate the bubble ever since, in hopes of *avoiding* another crisis.

— Bill McKibben, *The New Yorker*, "Money Is the Oxygen on Which the Fire of Global Warming Burns," 17 Sep. 2019

// The Chargers cornerback matched Detroit receiver Kenny Golladay stride for stride on a fourth-quarter post pattern and was in position to make a game-saving play while *avoiding* a pass-interference penalty on a yellow-flag-filled afternoon.

— Mike Digiovanna, *Los Angeles Times*, "Late Detroit touchdown is one of the few defensive blemishes for Chargers," 15 Sep. 2019

// This means that children recovering from concussions can return to school and some social activities, but should *avoid* physical or mental activities that may worsen symptoms.

— Susan Davies, *The Conversation*, "Concussions and children returning to school – what parents need to know," 12 Sep. 2019

// Onwuasor's first assignment against the Miami Dolphins went smoothly, as the Ravens defense allowed 10 points and forced two turnovers, while *avoiding* costly errors.

— Daniel Oyefusi, *baltimoresun.com*, "Ravens linebacker Patrick Onwuasor passes first test in middle of defense, relaying calls to teammates," 12 Sep. 2019

// The council opted to implement a hiring freeze as a way to address the city's systemic budget deficit while *avoiding* permanent staffing cuts.

— Anthony Clark Carpio, *Burbank Leader*, "Burbank officials look to fill vacant city positions," 30 Aug. 2019

// In a letter to members Sunday, a UAW leader said a strike could have been *avoided*.

— Jamie L. Lareau, *Detroit Free Press*, "UAW leader says GM could have avoided strike: Here's how," 16 Sep. 2019

// The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District recommended Friday that people *avoid* using e-cigarette devices, amid a growing national problem with deaths and lung illnesses connected to vaping.

— Lauren Caruba, *ExpressNews.com*, "San Antonio health department: Avoid vaping," 13 Sep. 2019

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## First Known Use of *avoid*

14th century, in the meaning defined at sense 2

## History and Etymology for *avoid*

Middle English, from Anglo-French *avoider*, alteration of Old French *esvuider*, from *es-*

(from Latin *ex-*) + *vuidere* to empty — more at [VOID](#) entry 3

*Keep scrolling for more*

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### Resources for *avoid*



### Dictionary Entries near *avoid*

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Avogadro's number

avogram

**avoid**

avoidance

avoiding reaction

avoid (someone or something) like the plague

### Phrases Related to *avoid*

avoid (someone or something) like the plague

St

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26

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## More Definitions for *avoid*

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### **avoid** verb

#### **English Language Learners Definition of *avoid***

: to stay away from (someone or something)

: to prevent the occurrence of (something bad, unpleasant, etc.)

: to keep yourself from doing (something) or participating in (something)

See the full definition for *avoid* in the English Language Learners Dictionary

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### **avoid** verb

\ ə-ˈvɔɪd \

**avoided; avoiding**

## Kids Definition of *avoid*

- 1** : to keep away from  
*// Are you avoiding me?*
  - 2** : to keep from happening  
*// avoid mistakes*
  - 3** : to keep from doing or being  
*// Brian turned back to avoid embarrassing the pilot ...*  
— Gary Paulsen, *Hatchet*
- 

## **avoid** transitive verb

### Legal Definition of *avoid*

- 1** : to make void or undo : ANNUL  
*// the trustee may avoid any transfer of interest of the debtor in property*  
— *U.S. Code*
- 2** : to respond to (an allegation or averment) by declaring that facts alleged do not result in liability  
*// averments in a pleading to which no responsive pleading is required or permitted shall be taken as denied or avoided*  
— *U.S. Code*  
— see also CONFESSION AND AVOIDANCE  
— compare DENY
- 3** : to prevent the occurrence of or responsibility for especially through lawful means  
*// avoid a tax*  
— compare EVADE

### Other Words from *avoid*

**avoidability** *noun*

**avoidable** *adjective*

**avoidance** *noun*

## History and Etymology for *avoid*

modification of Old French *esvuider* to destroy, literally, to empty, from *es-* out + *vuider* to empty

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## More from Merriam-Webster on *avoid*

Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for *avoid*

Rhyming Dictionary: Words that rhyme with *avoid*

Spanish Central: Translation of *avoid*

Nglish: Translation of *avoid* for Spanish Speakers

Britannica English: Translation of *avoid* for Arabic Speakers

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