



SINCE 1828

careful adjective

care·ful | \ 'ker-fəl \

carefuller; carefullest

Definition of *careful*

- 1 a** : marked by wary caution or prudence
// be very careful with knives
- b** : marked by attentive concern and solicitude
// careful farm management
- c** : marked by painstaking effort to avoid errors or omissions —often used with *of* or an infinitive
// careful of money
// careful to adjust the machine
- 2** : exercising or taking care
// careful of a child's welfare
- 3** *archaic*
 - a** : SOLICITOUS, ANXIOUS
 - b** : filling with care or solicitude

inc

not

Ge

Synonyms & Antonyms

Choose the Right Synonym

More Example Sentences

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Other Words from *careful*

carefully \ 'ker-f(ə-)lē \ *adverb*

carefulness \ 'ker-fəl-nəs \ *noun*

Synonyms & Antonyms for *careful*

Synonyms

alert, cautious, chary, circumspect, conservative, considerate, gingerly, guarded, heedful, safe, wary

Antonyms

careless, heedless, incautious, unguarded, unmindful, unsafe, unwary

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Choose the Right Synonym for *careful*

CAREFUL, METICULOUS, SCRUPULOUS, PUNCTILIOUS mean showing close attention to detail. CAREFUL implies attentiveness and cautiousness in avoiding

mistakes. // *a careful worker* // METICULOUS may imply either commendable extreme carefulness or a hampering finicky caution over small points. // *meticulous scholarship* // SCRUPULOUS applies to what is proper or fitting or ethical. // *scrupulous honesty* // PUNCTILIOUS implies minute, even excessive attention to fine points. // *punctilious observance of ritual* //

CAREFUL and CAUTIOUS mean taking care to avoid trouble. CAREFUL is used for a person who is able to prevent mistakes or accidents by being alert. // *Be careful when you paint the fence.* // CAUTIOUS is used for a person who takes care to avoid further problems or difficulties. // *A cautious driver will drive slowly in bad weather.* //

Examples of *careful* in a Sentence

// He is a *careful* driver.

// You can never be too *careful* about these things.

// *Be careful!* The stove is hot!

// She was *careful* of their feelings.

// The police were *careful* to leave the room exactly as they found it.

// Police made a *careful* examination of the scene.

// They produced a *careful* study of the building.

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Recent Examples on the Web

// *Be careful* with this one—your baby fever is definitely going to flare up.

— Cady Drell, *Marie Claire*, "45 Classic Movies to Watch If You Love Rom-Coms," 9 Sep. 2019

// However, let's be *careful* with that because Florida's still in the cone...Florida could still see some of that on-shore flow, the high water, the heavy rainfall and also see the winds.

— David Fleshler, *sun-sentinel.com*, "Hurricane Dorian's latest path steers clear of most of South Florida," 31 Aug. 2019

// *Be careful*, though: Scammers use this same technique to lure you into replying STOP to their messages, which can help verify you and your number.

— Kim Komando, *USA TODAY*, "6 clever ways to quash robotext spam messages before it's too late," 29 Aug. 2019

// Wolff supported a reduction to 275 sites, saying it could be done through *careful* planning and public education, without marginalizing low-income voters — the key concern raised by community advocates.

— Scott Huddleston, *ExpressNews.com*, "County leaders opt to keep all 287 voting sites in San Antonio for the Nov. 5 elections," 6 Aug. 2019

// Be extra *careful* with the delicate curving lines of the eyebrows and whiskers.

— Joan Lang, *Woman's Day*, "Friendly Feline Pumpkin," 5 Sep. 2019

// Well, head to your laundromat, just be *careful* about it.

— James Lynch, *Popular Mechanics*, "How To Clean a Sleeping Bag," 3 Sep. 2019

// Still, Addazio was *careful* about managing Dillon's workload in the opener.

— Julian Benbow, *BostonGlobe.com*, "Tate Haynes shows BC defense can make up for youth with talent," 31 Aug. 2019

// Lions coach Matt Patricia said Thursday that Tabor did not play in the game because the team was being *careful* about his return from injury.

— Dave Birkett, *Detroit Free Press*, "Detroit Lions release Teez Tabor, Andrew Adams in first wave of cuts," 30 Aug. 2019

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First Known Use of *careful*

before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at sense 3a

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care for

carefree

careful

caregiver

careless

Carelian

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careful adjective

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: using care

: made, done, or said with care

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

careful adjective

care·ful | \ 'ker-fəl \

Kids Definition of *careful*

1 : using care

// a *careful* driver

2 : made, done, or said with care

// *careful* planning

// She gave a *careful* answer.

Other Words from *careful*

carefully \ -fə-lē\ *adverb*

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