



SINCE 1828

ensue

verb | [en·sue](#) | \in-'sü, en-'

REVIEWED

By Chris Tighe at 1:08 pm, Mar 30, 2018

Tip: [Synonym Guide](#)

Definition of ENSUE

ensued; ensuing

transitive verb

: to strive to attain : **PURSUE**

- I wander, seeking peace, and *ensuing* it —Rupert Brooke

intransitive verb

: to take place afterward or as a result

See [ensue](#) defined for English-language learners

See [ensue](#) defined for kids

Recent Examples of ENSUE from the Web

The *ensuing* debris flows overwhelmed Montecito's creeks and buried the town, killing at least 21 people and destroying more than 100 homes.

— Joseph Serna, *latimes.com*, "Biggest storm of the season could bring more devastation to California burn areas," 20 Mar. 2018

Documents have been lost or destroyed in the *ensuing* turmoil.

— Matthew Dalton And William Horobin, *WSJ*, "Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy Is Detained in Campaign Financing Probe," 20 Mar. 2018

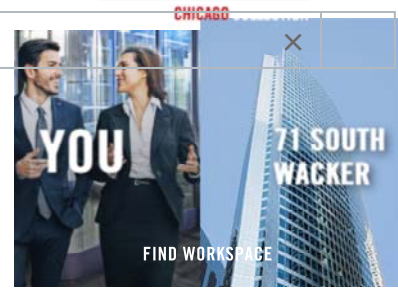
Over the *ensuing* eight decades, mob killings, assassinations, crime waves and politics have dictated federal gun laws.

— *Washington Post*, "Today's gun-control debate has echoes of 1934," 15 Mar. 2018

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

Origin and Etymology of ENSUE

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parlous

full of danger or risk

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'to take testimony from espe...
- 2** **omnibus**
'containing or including man...
- 3** **acrimony**
'anger and bitterness'
- 4** **excoriate**
'to criticize very harshly'
- 5** **terrorism**
'the systematic use of terror...

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What's That Smell?



English, from Anglo-French
word singular *ensui*), from
SINCE 1828

ensue

DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

ensue

ensuingly

X

Synonym Discussion of ENSUE

FOLLOW, **SUCCEED**, **ENSUE**, **SUPERVENE** mean to come after something or someone. **FOLLOW** may apply to a coming after in time, position, or logical sequence. (• speeches *followed* the dinner) **SUCCEED** implies a coming after immediately in a sequence determined by natural order, inheritance, election, or laws of rank. (• she *succeeded* her father as head of the business) **ENSUE** commonly suggests a logical consequence or naturally expected development. (• after the talk a general discussion *ensued*) **SUPERVENE** suggests the following or beginning of something unforeseen or unpredictable. (• unable to continue because of *supervening* circumstances)



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March 201... the Day Quiz



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homely

sluggish

plainspoken

mournful

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ENSUE Defined for English Language Learners

ensue

verb

Definition of ENSUE for English Language Learners

: to come at a later time : to happen as a result

ENSUE Defined for Kids

ensue

verb | en·sue | \in-'sü\

Definition of ENSUE for Students

ensued; ensuing

: to come after in time or as a result : **FOLLOW** • The show ended, and a long standing ovation *ensued*.

Learn More about ENSUE

See **words that rhyme with ensue**

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