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# explicit

adjective | ex·plic·it | \ik-'spli-sət\

Popularity: Top 10% of words | Updated on: 15 Feb 2018

Tip: Synonym Guide ▼

Examples: EXPLICIT in a Sentence ▼



## Definition of EXPLICIT

- a** : fully revealed or expressed without vagueness, implication, or **ambiguity** : leaving no question as to meaning or intent • *explicit* instructions

**b** : open in the depiction of nudity or sexuality • *explicit* books and films
- : fully developed or formulated • an *explicit* plan • an *explicit* notion of our objective
- : **unambiguous** in expression • was very *explicit* on how we are to behave
- of a mathematical function* : defined by a **dependent variable** and **independent variables** — compare **IMPLICIT** IC

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### From the M-W Editors



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### Examples of EXPLICIT in a Sentence

From closer restrictions on sexually *explicit* writing came the success, in the mid-19th century, of the novelist George Thompson, who combined graphically violent scenes set in urban dystopia with explicit references to sex. —Susan Dominus, *New York Times*, 2009

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ekaboo  
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... the cheerleaders in Washington wore dreads and leather pants and those burdensome-looking collections of buttons (those ... skeins of *explicit*

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logy), rather than letter sweaters and pleated skirts ... —Jonathan  
 en, *New Yorker*, 5 Feb. 2001

Therefore, the Administration's policy was the *explicit*, if unpublicized, one  
 that it was necessary to allow Saddam Hussein to put down the rebellions.  
 —Elizabeth Drew, *New Yorker*, 6 May 1991

They were given *explicit* instructions.

Changes to the property can't be done without their *explicit* consent.

The law is very *explicit* about how these measures should be enacted.

a song with *explicit* lyrics

The movie contains scenes of *explicit* violence.

two people engaging in *explicit* sex

## Recent Examples of EXPLICIT from the Web

Another breach of these guidelines was the *explicit* reporting of the suicide  
 method.

— Amy Ellis Nutt, *chicagotribune.com*, "Robin Williams' suicide was  
 followed by a sharp rise in 'copycat' deaths," 8 Feb. 2018

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Like most outlets interviewed for this article, CNN does not have an *explicit*  
 policy prohibiting the purchase of social media followers.

— James Rainey, *NBC News*, "Journalists say they bought fake twitter followers," 3 Feb. 2018



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of the coolest takeaways from my crash-course on ombré and balayage isn't just Capri's *explicit* definitions of the terms, but the revelation that ombré maintenance is extremely low.

— Ruby Buddemeyer, *Marie Claire*, "Wait, What's the Difference Between Balayage and Ombré Hair?," 31 Jan. 2018

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

## Origin and Etymology of EXPLICIT

French or Medieval Latin; French *explicite*, from Medieval Latin *explicitus*, from Latin, past participle of *explicare* — see **EXPLICATE**

## EXPLICIT Synonyms

### Synonyms

clear-cut, definite, definitive, express, specific, unambiguous, unequivocal

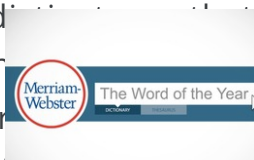
### Antonyms

implicit, implied, inferred; ambiguous, circuitous; equivocal, indefinite,

## Synonym Discussion of EXPLICIT

**EXPLICIT**, **DEFINITE**, **EXPRESS**, **SPECIFIC** mean perfectly clear in meaning.

**EXPLICIT** implies such verbal plainness and directness that there is no need for inference and no room for difficulty in understanding (• the instructions) **DEFINITE** stresses precise, clear arrangement that leaves no doubt or indecision. (• the law is *definite* in such cases) **EXPRESS** implies both explicitness and direct and positive utterance. (• her *express*



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es) **SPECIFIC** applies to what is precisely and fully treated in detail or  
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cular. (• two *specific* criticisms)

## EXPLICIT Defined for English Language Learners

# explicit

*adjective*

### Definition of EXPLICIT for English Language Learners

- : very clear and complete : leaving no doubt about the meaning
- : showing or referring very openly to nudity, violence, or sexual activity
- : openly shown

## EXPLICIT Defined for Kids

# explicit

*adjective* | ex·plic·it | \ik-'spli-sət\

### Definition of EXPLICIT for Students

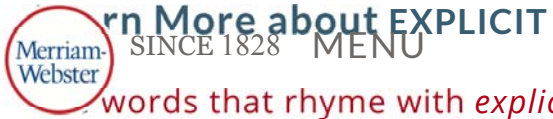
: so clear in statement that there is no doubt about the meaning • *explicit*  
instructions

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words that rhyme with *explicit*

Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for *explicit*

Spanish Central: Translation of *explicit*

English: Translation of *explicit* for Spanish speakers

Britannica English: Translation of *explicit* for Arabic speakers

Britannica.com: Encyclopedia article about *explicit*

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tenebrou

dark, murky, or ok



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