



operation

noun | op·er·a·tion | \,ä-pə-'rā-shən\

Popularity: Top 30% of words

Examples: OPERATION in a Sentence ▼

Definition of OPERATION

- 1 : performance of a practical work or of something involving the practical application of principles or processes • Practice until you can go through the whole *operation* without hesitation or thinking.
- 2 **a** : an exertion of power or influence • the *operation* of a drug
b : the quality or state of being functional or **operative** • The plant is now in *operation*.
c : a method or manner of functioning • a machine of very simple *operation*
- 3 : **EFFICACY, POTENCY** —archaic except in legal usage

- 5 : any of various mathematical or logical processes (such as addition) of deriving one entity from others according to a rule • Multiplication is one mathematical *operation*.
- 6 **a** : a usually military action, mission, or maneuver including its planning and execution • military *operations* for a large-scale invasion
b operations plural : the office on the flight line of an airfield where pilots file clearance for flights and where flying from the field is controlled
c operations plural : the agency of an organization charged with carrying on the principal planning and **operating** functions of a headquarters and its subordinate units
- 7 : a business transaction especially when speculative • continued his *operations* in cotton futures
- 8 : a single step performed by a computer in the execution of a program (see **1program** 6b)
- 9 : a usually small business or establishment • ran a struggling *operation*

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Examples of OPERATION in a Sentence

The family runs a small farming *operation*.

The company is a billion-dollar *operation*.

Recent Examples of OPERATION from the Web

As more nations and companies plan missions to the moon, the real fear isn't of some spacefaring Indiana Jones so much as the impacts of numerous lunar landings or, say, a massive mining *operation*.

— Emily Langer, *Washington Post*, "Herbert L. Needleman, pediatrician who exposed dangers of lead poisoning, dies at 89," 20 July 2017

Boyce, 61, survived two strokes and five *operations* to unblock arteries around his heart, including three procedures in which doctors propped open his blood vessels with stents.

— Liz Szabo, *Kaiser Health News*, "Depression Among Heart Attack Survivors Can Be Deadly, Yet Is Often Ignored," 20 July 2017

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

Origin and Etymology of OPERATION

Middle English *operacioun*, from Middle French *operation*, from Latin *operation-*, *operatio*, from *operari*

OPERATION Synonyms

Synonyms

assignment, brief, business, charge, detail, job, mission, post

Phrases Related to OPERATION

Related Phrases

base of operations

sex change (operation)

OPERATION Defined for English Language Learners

operation

noun

Definition of OPERATION for English Language Learners

: an activity of a business or organization

OPERATION Defined for Kids

operation

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Definition of OPERATION for Students

- 1 : a set of actions for a particular purpose • a rescue *operation*
- 2 : a medical procedure that involves cutting into a living body in order to repair or remove a damaged or diseased part • I need an *operation* to remove my appendix.
- 3 : the process of putting military forces into action • naval *operations*
- 4 : the state of working or being able to work • The factory is now in *operation*.
- 5 : a method or manner of working • The camera is designed for easy *operation*.
- 6 : a process (as addition or multiplication) of getting one mathematical expression from others according to a rule
- 7 : a single step performed by a computer in carrying out a program

operation

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Medical Definition of OPERATION

: a procedure performed on a living body usually with instruments for the repair of damage or the restoration of health and especially one that involves incision, excision, or suturing

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"Something having dominant influence over others"
- 4 repugnant**
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- 5 white nationalist, white supremacist**
Trending in 2017

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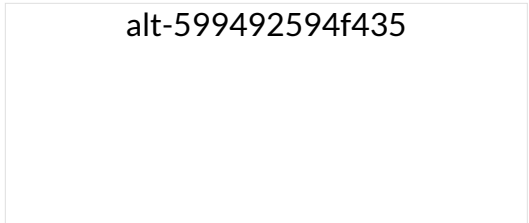
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Words of the Year: 1066

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and Cow Meat is Called 'Beef'

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