

REVIEWED

By Chris at 10:30 am, Oct 15, 2020

SINCE 1828

- GAMES
- BROWSE THESAURUS
- WORD OF THE DAY
- WORDS AT PLAY
- LOG IN
- <u>REGISTER</u>

•

settings

• SAVED WORDS

rigor mortis



dictionary thesaurus

view recents

<u>Login</u> or <u>Register</u> Hello,

- GAMES
- BROWSE THESAURUS
- WORD OF THE DAY
- WORDS AT PLAY
- <u>SETTINGS</u>

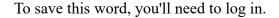
•

• SAVED WORDS view recents

rigor mortis

noun

Save Word



Log In

rig·or mor·tis | \ ri-gər-'mor-təs also chiefly British rī- go-'mo-təs



Definition of rigor mortis

: temporary rigidity of muscles occurring after death

Did You Know? Example Sentences Learn More about rigor mortis

Keep scrolling for more

Did You Know?

Rigor mortis, which translates from Latin as "stiffness of death", sets in quickly and usually ends three or four days after death. The condition results from a lack of certain chemicals in the muscles; it may be affected by muscular activity before death as well as the external temperature. Mystery writers frequently make use of rigor mortis as a means by which the detective or the examiner can determine the time of the victim's death, which often turns out to be all-important in solving the case.

Examples of *rigor mortis* in a Sentence

Recent Examples on the Web On Tuesday, in his postmortem for a season that entered rigor mortis five weeks ago, Rangers general manager Jon Daniels laid out in some detail a plan for the future. — Evan Grant, Dallas News, "If Rangers are truly committed to youth movement, they need to make decisions on Rougned Odor, Elvis Andrus," 30 Sep. 2020 He is frozen in the beginning stages of rigor mortis — his eyes are stuck open and blood is pouring out of his skull into the water. — Ariana Romero, refinery29.com, "Wait — Is Steve Actually Dead On Dead To Me?," 8 May 2020

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

See More

First Known Use of rigor mortis

1847, in the meaning defined above

History and Etymology for rigor mortis

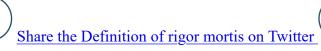
New Latin, stiffness of death

Keep scrolling for more

Learn More about rigor mortis

Share rigor mortis





Time Traveler for rigor mortis



The first known use of rigor mortis was in 1847

See more words from the same year

Dictionary Entries near rigor mortis

rigolet

rigor

<u>rigorism</u>

rigor mortis

rigorous

rigour

rig-out

See More Nearby Entries

Statistics for rigor mortis

Last Updated

7 Oct 2020

Look-up Popularity

Top 4% of words

Cite this Entry

"Rigor mortis." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/rigor%20mortis. Accessed 15 Oct. 2020.

Style: MLA

Keep scrolling for more

More Definitions for rigor mortis

rigor mortis



English Language Learners Definition of rigor mortis

: a temporary stiffness of the body that happens soon after death

See the full definition for rigor mortis in the English Language Learners Dictionary

rigor mortis

noun

rig·or mor·tis | \ rig-ər-'mort-əs also chiefly British rī- go(ə)r- \

Medical Definition of rigor mortis

: temporary rigidity of muscles occurring after death

More from Merriam-Webster on rigor mortis

Nglish: Translation of rigor mortis for Spanish Speakers

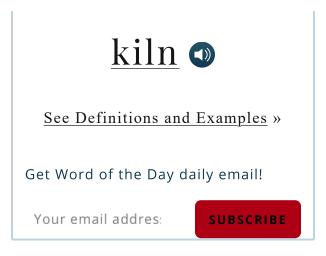
Britannica.com: Encyclopedia article about rigor mortis

Comments on rigor mortis

What made you want to look up *rigor mortis*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

SHOW COMMENTS (+)

WORD OF THE DAY



Test Your Vocabulary

Forms of Government Quiz

• A *gerontocracy* is rule by:

elders unwritten laws
animals soothsayers

Can you spell these 10 commonly misspelled words?

TAKE THE QUIZ

Test Your Knowledge - and learn some interesting things along the way.

TAKE THE QUIZ

Love words? Need even more definitions?

Subscribe to America's largest dictionary and get thousands more definitions and advanced search—ad free!

MERRIAM-WEBSTER UNABRIDGED

WORDS AT PLAY

<u>9 Words Related To Debate</u> <u>And Argument</u>

We have the floor.

What Counts as a 'Dilemma'?

Does it have to be between two things?

The Words of the Week - 10/9/20

Words from the week of 10/9/2020

A Brief on 'Squadron' and 'Squad'

By land, sea, or air

ASK THE EDITORS

'Intensive purposes': An Eggcorn

We're intent on clearing it up

'Nip it in the butt': An Eggcorn

We're gonna stop you right there

Literally

How to use a word that (literally) drives some pe...

Is Singular 'They' a Better Choice?

The awkward case of 'his or her'

7 of 9

WORD GAMES

Forms of Government Quiz

Name that government! Or something like that.

TAKE THE QUIZ

Semantic Drift Quiz

A challenging quiz of changing words.

TAKE THE QUIZ

Spell It

<u>Can you spell these 10 commonly</u> <u>misspelled words?</u>

TAKE THE QUIZ

Syn City

Build a city of skyscrapers—one synonym at a time.

PLAY THE GAME

Learn a new word every day. Delivered to your inbox!

Your email address



OTHER MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARIES

- LEARNER'S ESL DICTIONARY
 - VISUAL DICTIONARY
- SCRABBLE® WORD FINDER
- MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY
 - BRITANNICA ENGLISH ARABIC TRANSLATION
 - NGLISH SPANISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATION

FOLLOW US

• • • •

Browse the Dictionary: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 0-9

Home | Help | Apps | About Us | Shop | Advertising Info | Dictionary API |
Contact Us | Join MWU | Video | Word of the Year | Puku |
Vocabulary Resources | Law Dictionary | Medical Dictionary | Privacy Policy |
Terms of Use | Do Not Sell My Info

Browse the Thesaurus | Browse the Medical Dictionary |
Browse the Legal Dictionary

© 2020 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

9 of 9