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By Chris Tighe at 1:00 pm, Aug 15, 2018

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assist

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assist

[verb](#) as·sist \ ə-'sist \

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What's Trending Now More Trending Words

1. [sequacious 'intellectually servile'](#)
2. [inadmissible 'not capable of being allowed'](#)
3. [oligarch, pejorative 'a member a government in which a small group exercises control especially for corrupt and selfish purposes'](#)
4. [emolument 'the returns arising from office or employment usually in the form of compensation or perquisites'](#)
5. [troll 'to harass, criticize, or antagonize especially by disparaging or mocking public statements'](#)

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[Examples: assist in a Sentence](#)

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- [Time Traveler! Explore the year a word first appeared](#)

Definition of assist

assisted; assisting; assists

[transitive verb](#)

: to give usually [supplementary](#) support or aid to

- She assisted the boy with his lessons.

[intransitive verb](#)

1 : to give support or aid

- assisted at the stove
- Another surgeon assisted on the operation.

2 : to be present as a spectator

- ... the ideal figures assisting at Italian holy scenes.
- —Mary McCarthy

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

See [assist defined for kids](#)

Examples of *assist* in a Sentence

1. The device *assists* those who can't climb stairs.
2. The President was *assisted* by his advisers.
3. She *assisted* the boy with his homework.
4. Another doctor *assisted* him with the operation.
5. Another doctor *assisted* with the operation.
6. Federal agents are *assisting* with the investigation.
7. She *assisted* in making the decision.
8. The cream *assists* in the prevention of skin cancer.



Recent Examples of *assist* from the Web

- Pat Gengler said sheriff's deputies responded at 11:20 p.m. on a report of a call to *assist* the Maple Park Fire Department with a victim trapped in a vehicle on the track.
— [linda girardi, Aurora Beacon-News, "Morton Grove race car driver killed in Sycamore Speedway crash," 14 July 2018](#)
- The text also helped to *assist* the United States' broader vision of promoting Islam and religious faith as a counter to Communist irreligiosity.
— [amanda laugesen, Smithsonian, "This Cold War-Era Publishing House Wanted To Share American Values With the World," 13 July 2018](#)
- Children currently in TUFF Start, a non-profit organization which seeks to *assist* local children that are disadvantaged, hit the lanes with Ridley.
— [david furones, Sun-Sentinel.com, "Calvin Ridley holds charity bowling event to raise funds for program that helped him in his youth," 13 July 2018](#)
- Many are encouraged by the fact that the US is in talks with Mexico to *assist* that country – and its incoming, migrant-friendly president – in becoming an appealing refuge itself for those fleeing violence or repression in Central America.
— [The Christian Science Monitor, "Mexico as a haven for asylum seekers," 11 July 2018](#)
- Instead of spending \$149,000 for the study, advocates again said the money should be used to create a fund to *assist* families of police-shooting victims.
— [jason pohl, azcentral, "Phoenix police gets go-ahead for \\$149K study into police shootings as record pace continues," 5 July 2018](#)
- Funding will also be used to promote Ramona as an agritourism area and to distribute materials and guides to *assist* visitors.
— [joe naiman, Ramona Sentinel, "Eight nonprofits receive \\$251,806 in hotel tax money," 3 July 2018](#)
- There, several other speakers criticized Democratic Mayor Greg Fischer for not declaring Louisville a sanctuary city and for allowing Louisville Metro Police to *assist* federal agents.
— [zahria rogers, The Courier-Journal, "Immigration rally splits as group calls out Fischer over 'sanctuary city' policy," 30 June 2018](#)
- Officer Bernot arrived shortly after to *assist* her.
— [monique judge, The Root, "Cop Caught On Video Tasing a Calm, Nonviolent, Compliant Man Who Was Sitting on a Curb," 29 June 2018](#)

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

Origin and Etymology of *assist*

Middle French or Latin; Middle French *assister* to help, stand by, from Latin *assistere*, from *ad-* + *sistere* to cause to stand; akin to Latin *stare* to stand — more at [stand](#)

NEW! Time Traveler

First Known Use: 15th century

in the meaning defined at [transitive sense](#)

[See Words from the same year](#)

assist Synonyms

Synonyms

[abet](#), [aid](#), [back](#), [backstop](#), [help](#), [prop \(up\)](#), [support](#);

Antonyms

[hinder](#);

Near Antonyms

[balk](#), [bar](#), [block](#), [constrain](#), [hamper](#), [handicap](#), [hold back](#), [impede](#), [inhibit](#), [obstruct](#), [restrain](#), [strangle](#);

[baffle](#), [foil](#), [frustrate](#), [inconvenience](#), [interfere](#), [oppose](#), [sabotage](#), [thwart](#);

[desert](#), [disappoint](#), [fail](#), [let down](#);

[discourage](#), [dishearten](#);

[repress](#), [retard](#), [stifle](#), [straiten](#), [stunt](#);

[damage](#), [harm](#), [hurt](#), [injure](#);

Related Words

[advance](#), [ease](#), [facilitate](#), [forward](#), [foster](#), [further](#), [launch](#);

[champion](#), [endorse](#) (also [indorse](#)), [patronize](#), [promote](#), [sponsor](#);

[attend](#), [care \(for\)](#), [comfort](#), [minister \(to\)](#), [succor](#);

[sustain](#);

[bolster](#), [boost](#), [buttress](#), [reinforce](#) (also [reenforce](#));

[advise](#), [counsel](#), [guide](#), [mentor](#), [nurture](#);

[bail out](#), [deliver](#), [rescue](#), [save](#);

[embolden](#), [encourage](#), [hearten](#);

[benefit](#), [favor](#), [oblige](#), [profit](#), [serve](#);

Phrases

bear a hand, to stand one in good stead;

2

assist

[noun](#)

Definition of assist

1 US : an act or action that helps someone : an act of [assistance](#)

- He wrote the story with an assist from a friend. [=with the help of a friend]

2 : the action (such as a throw or pass) of a player who enables a teammate to make a putout (as in baseball) or score a goal (as in basketball or hockey); also : official credit given for such an action

- was credited with 5 assists in the first half

3 : a mechanical or [electromechanical](#) device that provides assistance

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

Recent Examples of *assist* from the Web

- Extremely athletic and agile, Reese can handle the ball and averaged 3.1 *assists* as a sophomore for the No. — [katherine dunn, baltimoresun.com, "After missing cut for U.S. team, St. Frances star Angel Reese plans more hoops, closer look at big offers," 14 July 2018](#)
- Ledesma scored four goals and added one *assist* in June. — [patrick brennan, Cincinnati.com, "FC Cincinnati's Emmanuel Ledesma named USL Player of the Month for June," 12 July 2018](#)
- Sports Highlights Up Next: GAME RECAP: Cavaliers 96, Kings 84 Your video will play in: 5 seconds GAME RECAP: Cavaliers 96, Kings 84 Collin Sexton puts up 25 points and dishes out seven *assists* to lead the Cavaliers over the Kings, 96-84. — [angel guerrero, sacbee, "The best Tahoe celebrity golf pairings, from Steph and Dell Curry to Barkley and C-Webb," 12 July 2018](#)
- Pondexter hit just 4-of-12 shots and finished with nine points, one rebound and one *assist*. — [jordan guskey, Indianapolis Star, "Indiana Fever fall to 2-18 in loss against Minnesota Lynx," 11 July 2018](#)
- Here again, the England team has received a timely *assist*. — [jonathan clegg, WSJ, "How England Rewired Its Soccer DNA," 10 July 2018](#)

- Over three games, Nwora averaged 21.7 points, 8.0 rebounds, 2.3 steals and 2.7 *assists*.
— [danielle lerner, The Courier-Journal, "Louisville's Jordan Nwora more than just a shooter for Nigerian team," 10 July 2018](#)
- At the museum, Akins coordinates youth activities, oversees the girls' computer coding classes and *assists* with events.
— [kari barnett, Sun-Sentinel.com, "Spady Museum education coordinator appointed to Delray's Public Art Advisory Board," 10 July 2018](#)
- The last major league first baseman to play a full game without a putout or *assist* was Edwin Encarnacion for Toronto in 2012.
— [tyler kepner, New York Times, "Miles Mikolas Took a Wild Journey to the Cardinals Rotation," 7 July 2018](#)

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

Origin and Etymology of *assist*

see [¹assist](#)

NEW! Time Traveler

First Known Use: 1597

in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

[See Words from the same year](#)

assist Synonyms

Synonyms

[abetment](#), [aid](#), [assistance](#), [backing](#), [boost](#), [hand](#), [help](#), [helping hand](#), [leg up](#), [lift](#), [support](#);

Antonyms

[hindrance](#);

Near Antonyms

[constraint](#), [frustration](#), [inhibition](#), [interference](#), [obstruction](#), [repression](#), [restraint](#);

[deterrence](#), [discouragement](#);

Related Words

[advancement](#), [encouragement](#), [facilitation](#), [forwarding](#), [furtherance](#), [furthering](#), [nurturance](#);

[benefaction](#), [patronage](#), [promotion](#), [sponsorship](#);

[advice](#), [care](#), [counsel](#), [guidance](#), [mentoring](#);

[attendance](#), [attention](#), [hand-holding](#), [service](#);

[assuagement](#), [palliation](#), [relief](#), [succor](#);

Phrases Related to ASSIST

Related Phrases

- [with an assist from](#)
-

ASSIST Defined for English Language Learners

assist

[verb](#)

Definition of *assist* for English Language Learners

- : to give support or help : to make it easier for someone to do something or for something to happen
-

ASSIST Defined for Kids

1

assist

[verb](#) as·sist \ ə-'sist \

Definition of assist for Students

assisted; assisting

: to give support or help

- He *assisted* his mother in preparing dinner.

Word Root of *assist*

The Latin word *sistere*, meaning “to stand,” “to appear,” “to stop,” or “to put,” gives us the root **sist**. Words from the Latin *sistere* have something to do with standing, appearing, stopping, or putting. To *assist*, or help, is to stand by someone in order to give aid. To *consist* is to be made up of a number of things put together. To *exist*, or have actual being, is to appear real. To *persist* is to refuse to stop doing or saying something.

2

assist

[noun](#)

Definition of assist for Students

: an act of supporting or helping

- I finished my chores with an *assist* from my friends.
-

Medical Dictionary

1

assist

[transitive verb](#) as·sist \ ə-'sist \

medical Definition of assist

: to give usually supplementary support or aid to

- assist the patient up the stairs
- assist respiration mechanically

[intransitive verb](#)

: to give support or aid

2

assist

[noun](#)

medical Definition of assist

: an act or procedure that provides [assistance](#)

- external pressure circulatory assist employs compression of the lower extremities
 - —P. W. Wright
-

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WORD OF THE DAY

nonchalant^{play}

having an air of easy unconcern

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