

REVIEWED

By Chris at 1:05 pm, Nov 21, 2019



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primarily



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pri·mar·i·ly | \ pri-'mer-ə-lē also prə-, chiefly British 'prī-mə-rə-lē\

Definition of *primarily*

- 1 : for the most part : [chiefly](#) has now become primarily a residential town— S. P. B. Mais
- 2 : in the first place : [originally](#)

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Synonyms for *primarily*

Synonyms

- [firstly](#),
- [initially](#),
- [originally](#)

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Examples of *primarily* in a Sentence

the university was *primarily* an agricultural college when it was founded over two centuries ago ketchup is *primarily* made from tomatoes

Recent Examples on the Web Today, roughly 80% of the ingredients used in U.S. drugs are manufactured abroad, *primarily* in India and China, according to the Government Accountability Office.— [CBS News, "Zantac has low levels of cancer-causing chemical, FDA warns," 14 Sep. 2019](#) As of August, Madewell company operated 132 small US stores, *primarily* in upscale shopping malls and on city street corners.— [Nathaniel Meyersohn, CNN, "Madewell, J Crew's denim brand, files for an IPO," 13 Sep. 2019](#)

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

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First Known Use of *primarily*

1601, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

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Time Traveler for *primarily*



The first known use of *primarily* was in 1601

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Bottom 50% of words

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Style: MLA

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More Definitions for *primarily*

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[adverb](#)

English Language Learners Definition of *primarily*

—used to indicate the main purpose of something, reason for something, etc.

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primarily

[adverb](#)

pri·mar·i·ly | \ pri-'mer-ə-lē \

Kids Definition of *primarily*

: more than anything else : [mainly](#) ... he always considered himself a sculptor, and *primarily* a sculptor of marble.— E. L. Konigsburg, *Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

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WORD OF THE DAY

fortitude 

strength of mind

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Pass the Little Ribbons: A Pasta Word Quiz

- Match the pasta to its meaning in English:
Rotelle



•

- [little flowers](#)
- [little balls](#)
- [little wheels](#)
- [little hoops](#)



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WORDS AT PLAY



Is 'Positively' Positively Legal?

When there's 'positively' none of something ...



The True Story of 'Realize' and 'Realise'

Two spellings, an ocean apart



Out to Sea with 'Wave' 'Waive'

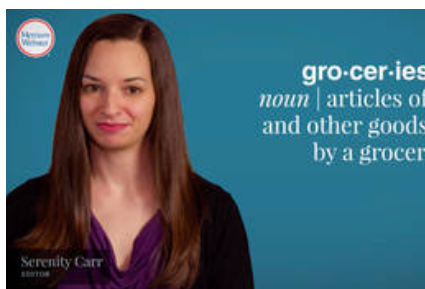
Find out where we wave

ASK THE EDITORS



Is It 'Hanger' or 'Hangar'?

How to remember which is which



How Do You Pronounce 'Groceries'?

Is there one standard way?



Literally

How to use a word that (literally) drives some people nuts

WORD GAMES



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Match the pasta with its meaning in Italian. ...

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