**within**  
adverb

within  |  \wi-\ˈthin\  , -\ˈthin  

**Definition of within (Entry 1 of 4)**

1  : in or into the interior : **INSIDE**

2  : in one's inner thought, disposition, or character : **INWARDLY**
   // search within for a creative impulse
   — Kingman Brewster †1988

**within**  
preposition

**Definition of within (Entry 2 of 4)**

1  —used as a function word to indicate enclosure or containment

2  —used as a function word to indicate situation or circumstance in the limits or compass of: such as

   a  : before the end of
   // gone within a week

   b  (1)  : not beyond the quantity, degree, or limitations of
   // live within your income
   (2)  : in or into the scope or sphere of
   // within the jurisdiction of the state
   (3)  : in or into the range of
   // within reach
   // within sight
   (4)  —used as a function word to indicate a specified difference or margin
   // came within two points of a perfect mark
within  noun

Definition of within (Entry 3 of 4)

Synonyms & Antonyms for within

Synonyms: Noun
innards, inside, interior

Antonyms: Noun
exterior, outside

Examples of within in a Sentence

Adverb

// We could hear sounds coming from within.
// The sign on the door says “Help Wanted: Inquire Within.”

Recent Examples on the Web: Adverb

// By early September, internal numbers from McBath’s campaign had her within 2 points of Handel.
— P.r. Lockhart, Vox, "6 years ago her son was murdered. Now Lucy McBath is heading to Congress.,” 8 Nov. 2018

// Back-to-back bogeys by Frodigh in combination with a pair of pars by Parziale enabled the reigning MassAm champ to pull within two with three holes remaining.
— Mia Berry, BostonGlobe.com, "Defending MassAm champion Matt Parziale falls in quarters," 12 July 2018
These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word "within." Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of the Merriam-Webster editors. Send us feedback.  

**History and Etymology for within**

**Adverb**

Middle English *withinne*, from Old English *withinnan*, from *with* + *innan* inwardly, within, from *in*

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**Learn More about within**

**Share within**

Facebook Twitter

**Resources for within**

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**Time Traveler for within**

October 26, 1997

**English Language Learners Definition of within (Entry 1 of 2)**

*formal*

: inside something

: in someone's inner thoughts, feelings, etc.

**within**  **preposition**

**English Language Learners Definition of within (Entry 2 of 2)**

: inside (a certain area or space)

: inside (a group, company, society, etc.)

: before the end of (a particular period of time)

*See the full definition for within in the English Language Learners Dictionary*
**within**  
adverb  
\textit{within}  |  \textit{\textbackslash \textit{within} }  

**Kids Definition of within (Entry 1 of 2)**  
: INSIDE entry 2  
// Sounds came from within.

**within**  
preposition  

**Kids Definition of within (Entry 2 of 2)**  
1  : INSIDE entry 4 sense 1  
// Stay within the house.

2  : not beyond the limits of  
// You should live within your income.

3  : before the end of  
// I'll be there within a week.

More from Merriam-Webster on within  
Rhyming Dictionary: [Words that rhyme with within](#)  
Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for within](#)  
Spanish Central: Translation of within  
English: Translation of within for Spanish Speakers  
Britannica English: Translation of within for Arabic Speakers
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