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## rote

[noun \(1\)](#)

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\ 'rōt  \

### Definition of *rote*

(Entry 1 of 4)

1 : the use of memory usually with little intelligence learn by rote

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2 : mechanical or unthinking routine or repetition a joyless sense of order, rote, and commercial hustle— L. L. King

rote

[adjective](#)

Definition of *rote* (Entry 2 of 4)

1 : learned or memorized by rote

2 : [mechanical sense 3a](#)

rote

[noun \(2\)](#)

Definition of *rote* (Entry 3 of 4)

: [crowd entry 3 sense 1](#)

rote

[noun \(3\)](#)

Definition of *rote* (Entry 4 of 4)

: the noise of surf on the shore

## Other Words from *rote*

Adjective

rotely adverb

## First Known Use of *rote*

Noun (1)

14th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Adjective

1844, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Noun (2)

14th century, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Noun (3)

1610, in the meaning defined [above](#)

## History and Etymology for *rote*

Noun (1)

Middle English

Noun (2)

Middle English, from Anglo-French, of Germanic origin; akin to Old High German *hruozza* crowd

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Noun (3)

perhaps of Scandinavian origin; akin to Old Norse *rauta* to roar — more at [rout entry 5](#)

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## The first known use of *rote* was in the 14th century

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## Statistics for *rote*

Look-up Popularity

Top 30% of words

Cite this Entry

“Rote.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/rote>. Accessed 20 Aug. 2020.

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More Definitions for *rote*

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[noun](#)\ 'rōt  \

## Kids Definition of *rote*

: the act of repeating over and over often without attention to meaning I learned the poem by *rote*.

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More from Merriam-Webster on *rote*

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WORD OF THE DAY

ne plus ultra

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