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## flee

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\ 'flē \

fled \ 'fled \; fleeing

### Definition of *flee*

[intransitive verb](#)

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1a : to run away often from danger or evil : [fly](#) The family *fled* from the war-torn zone.

b : to hurry toward a place of security Refugees *fled* to a neighboring country.

2 : to pass away swiftly : [vanish](#) mists fleeing before the rising sun

## [transitive verb](#)

: to run away from : [shun](#) Many people *fled* the city to escape the fighting.

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## Synonyms & Antonyms for *flee*

### Synonyms

- [dematerialize](#),
- [disappear](#),
- [dissolve](#),
- [evanesce](#),
- [evaporate](#),
- [fade](#),
- [fly](#),
- [melt](#),
- [sink](#),
- [vanish](#)

### Antonyms

- [appear](#),
- [materialize](#)

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## Examples of *flee* in a Sentence

The family *fled* from Nazi Germany to Britain in 1936. He was accused of trying to *flee* the scene of the accident.

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Recent Examples on the Web After being stopped by an officer, Moore attempted to *flee* but was found lying in some weeds and was taken into custody by Highland Park officers, according to Lake Forest police.— [Daniel I. Dorfman, chicagotribune.com, "Man charged after brief chase involving landscaping truck stolen in Lake Forest, police say," 6 Aug. 2020](#) The streets of eastern Beirut were gridlocked as cars tried to *flee* the area and pedestrians poured onto sidewalks.— [Sarah Dadouch, Washington Post, "Major explosion rocks Beirut," 4 Aug. 2020](#)

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'flee.' 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 *flee*

before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at [intransitive sense 1a](#)

## History and Etymology for *flee*

Middle English *flen*, from Old English *flēon*; akin to Old High German *fliohan* to flee

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## The first known use of *flee* was before the 12th century

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## Phrases Related to *flee*

[leave/flee the nest](#)

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## Statistics for *flee*

Last Updated

9 Aug 2020

Look-up Popularity

Top 40% of words

Cite this Entry

“Flee.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/flee>. Accessed 18 Aug. 2020.

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More Definitions for *flee*

flee

[verb](#)



## English Language Learners Definition of *flee*

: to run away from danger  
: to run away from (a place)

[See the full definition for \*flee\* in the English Language Learners Dictionary](#)

flee

[verb](#)

\ 'flē \

fled \ 'fled \; fleeing

## Kids Definition of *flee*

: to run away or away from Animals *fled* the fire.

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WORD OF THE DAY

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