

REVIEWED

By Chris Tighe at 1:23 pm, Jun 23, 2015

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Dictionary

accident

noun | ac·ci·dent | 'ak-sə-dənt, -,dent; 'aks-dənt\

SAVE  POPULARITY 

  

: a sudden event (such as a crash) that is not planned or intended and that causes damage or injury

: an event that is not planned or intended : an event that occurs by chance

 How many of these **commonly misspelled words** can you spell? »

Full Definition of ACCIDENT

- 1 **a** : an unforeseen and unplanned event or circumstance
- b** : lack of intention or necessity : **CHANCE** <met by *accident* rather than by design>
- 2 **a** : an unfortunate event resulting especially from carelessness or ignorance
- b** : an unexpected and medically important bodily event especially when injurious <a cerebrovascular *accident*>
- c** : an unexpected happening causing loss or injury which is not due to any fault or misconduct on the part of the person injured but for which legal relief may be sought
- d** —used euphemistically to refer to an involuntary act or instance of urination or defecation
- 3 : a nonessential property or quality of an entity or circumstance <the *accident* of nationality>
- See **accident** defined for English-language learners 
- See **accident** defined for kids 

Examples of ACCIDENT

- He was injured in an *accident* at work.
- The *accident* happened when her car slid on a patch of ice.
- Investigators are still trying to determine the cause of the *accident*.
- Their meeting was an *accident*.

Word of the Day | JUNE 23, 2015

belated

delayed beyond the usual time

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Words at Play



Why "I Before E" Won't Always Help You



It's Not the Heat, It's the Humidity

Word Games

Take a 3-minute break and test your skills!

Name That Thing



True or False?



Spell It



Trend Watch



Transracial

Fascination with Rachel Dolezal's racial identity ...

It is just an *accident* that they arrived when they did.

She says that her pregnancy was an *accident*.

Ask The Editor Videos



Ask the Editor

Lay vs. Lie



Ask the Editor

'Try and' vs. 'Try to'



Origin of ACCIDENT

Middle English, from Middle French, from Latin *accident-*, *accidens* nonessential quality, chance, from present participle of *accidere* to happen, from *ad-* + *cadere* to fall — more at [CHANCE](#)

First Known Use: 14th century

Related to ACCIDENT

Synonyms
[casualty](#), [mischance](#), [mishap](#)

[+] [more](#)

Rhymes with ACCIDENT

[aliment](#), [Blaenau Gwent](#), [circumvent](#), [compartment](#), [complement](#), [compliment](#), [confident](#), [devilment](#), [diffident](#), [discontent](#), [document](#), [evident](#), [h...](#)

[+] [more](#)

accident

noun | *ac·ci·dent* | *ˈak-səd-ənt, -sə-,dent; ˈaks-dənt* (*Medical Dictionary*)

Medical Definition of ACCIDENT

- 1 : an unfortunate event resulting from carelessness, unawareness, ignorance, or a combination of causes
- 2 : an unexpected bodily event of medical importance especially when injurious <a cerebrovascular *accident*>
- 3 : an unexpected happening causing loss or injury which is not due to any fault or misconduct on the part of the person injured but for which legal relief may be sought

—*ac·ci·den·tal* | *\,ak-sə-ˈdent-əl*  | *adjective*

—*ac·ci·den·tal·ly* | *\-ˈdent-lē, -əl-ē*  | *also ac·ci·dent·ly* | *\-ˈdent-lē*  | *adverb*

Learn More About ACCIDENT

- Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for "accident"](#)
- Spanish Central: [Spanish translation of "accident"](#)



SCRABBLE®: Playable words you can make from "accident"

Browse

10 ENTRIES FOUND:

- accident
- accident insurance
- accident-prone
- cerebrovascular accident
- fallacy of accident

Next Word in the Dictionary: [accidental](#)
(adjective)
Previous Word in the Dictionary: [accidens](#)
All Words Near: [accident](#)

Seen & Heard

What made you want to look up *accident*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

18 comments ▼



Comment using...

- 

Jeff Larason · ★ Top Commenter · Arlington, Massachusetts
In the examples section, they use this: "Investigators are still trying to determine the cause of the accident." How is it appropriate to use the word "accident" when an investigation has not yet been completed to determined intent? Until the investigation is completed, intent cannot be assumed and the word "accident" is not appropriate. We see this a lot with vehicular homicide, road rage, vehicular suicides, or intentional insurance fraud crashes being called "accidents" in media reports. Using this example facilitates improper us of the word. "Accident" should not be used until cause and intent have been determined.
[Reply](#) ·  2 · March 18 at 9:55am
- 

Garang John · Registered Nurse at Roman Catholic Diocese of Yei
the common causes of accident
[Reply](#) ·  · March 14 at 2:51am
- 

Gidion Masanja · Mwanza
what are the views of different scholar about road traffic accidents?
[Reply](#) ·  · October 10, 2014 at 12:57pm
- 

Jeff Larason · ★ Top Commenter · Arlington, Massachusetts
Gidion, I'm not a scholar, but most safety, and transportation agencies in the US have stopped using the word "accident" as there is a connotation of innocence. Drunk, drugged, distracted, and negligent drivers will deflect blame/fault by claiming it was an "accident". The insinuation is that they are innocent because they did not intent to crash. This, of course, ignores the fact that drunk drunk, drugged and distracted driving crashes are entirely foreseeable and is not at all a chance event.
[Reply](#) ·  1 · March 18 at 10:02am
- 

William Pool · Cashier at Walmart
To better understand the meaning of "Nothing happens by accident"
[Reply](#) ·  1 · February 8, 2014 at 1:57am
- 

Rico John Alemania · Dingle National High School
gwapohhh buh..
[Reply](#) ·  · September 15, 2013 at 10:39pm

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