



SINCE 1828

- [GAMES](#)
- [BROWSE THESAURUS](#)
- [WORD OF THE DAY](#)
- [WORDS AT PLAY](#)

- [LOG IN](#)
- [REGISTER](#)
- 
- [settings](#)
-  [SAVED WORDS](#)



[dictionary](#) [thesaurus](#) [view recents](#)

[Login](#) or [Register](#)
Hello,

- [GAMES](#)
- [BROWSE THESAURUS](#)
- [WORD OF THE DAY](#)
- [WORDS AT PLAY](#)
- [SETTINGS](#)
-

-  [SAVED WORDS](#) [view recents](#)

order

[verb](#)
 [Save Word](#)

To save this word, you'll need to log in.

[Log In](#) 

or·der | \ 'ôr-dər  [How to pronounce order \(audio\)](#) \

ordered; ordering \ 'ôr-d(ə-)rɪŋ  \

Definition of *order*

(Entry 1 of 2)

[transitive verb](#)

1 : to put in order : [arrange](#) The books are ordered alphabetically by author.

2a : to give an order to : [command](#) They ordered everyone out of the house.

b : [destine](#), [ordain](#) so ordered by the gods

c : to command to go or come to a specified place ordered back to the base

d : to give an order for order a meal I ordered the books from the company's website. The judge ordered a new trial.

[intransitive verb](#)

1 : to bring about order : [regulate](#) a renascence of the spirit that orders and controls— H. G. Wells

2a : to issue [orders](#) : [command](#) The general orders and soldiers obey.

b : to give or place an order Be sure to order before it's too late.

order

[noun](#)

Definition of *order* (Entry 2 of 2)

1a : a group of people united in a formal way: such as

(1) : a fraternal society the Masonic *Order*

(2) : a community under a religious rule especially : one requiring members to take solemn vows

b : a badge or medal of such a society also : a military decoration

2a : any of the several grades of the Christian ministry

b orders plural : the office of a person in the Christian ministry

c orders plural : [ordination](#)

3a : a rank, class, or special group in a community or society

b : a class of persons or things grouped according to quality, value, or natural characteristics: such as

(1) : a category of taxonomic classification ranking above the family and below the class

(2) : the broadest category in soil classification

4a(1) : [rank](#), [level](#) a statesman of the first order

(2) : [category](#), [class](#) in emergencies of this order— R. B. Westerfield

b(1) : the arrangement or sequence of objects or of events in time listed the items in order of importance the batting order

(2) : a sequential arrangement of mathematical elements

c : [degree sense 12a](#)

d(1) : the number of times differentiation is applied successively derivatives of higher order

(2) of a differential equation : the order of the derivative of highest order

e : the number of columns or rows or columns and rows in a magic square, determinant, or matrix the order of a matrix with 2 rows and 3 columns is 2 by 3

f : the number of elements in a finite mathematical group

5a(1) : a sociopolitical system was opposed to changes in the established order

(2) : a particular sphere or aspect of a sociopolitical system the present economic order

b : a regular or harmonious arrangement the order of nature

6a : a prescribed form of a religious service : [rite](#)

b : the customary mode of procedure especially in debate point of order

7a : the state of peace, freedom from confused or unruly behavior, and respect for law or proper authority
promised to restore law and order

b : a specific rule, regulation, or authoritative direction : [command](#)

8a : a style of building

b : a type of column and entablature forming the unit of a style

9a : state or condition especially with regard to functioning or repair things were in terrible order

b : a proper, [orderly](#), or functioning condition their passports were in order the phone is out of order

10a : a written direction to pay money to someone

b : a commission to purchase, sell, or supply goods or to perform work

c : goods or items bought or sold

d : an assigned or requested undertaking landing men on the moon was a tall order

11 : [order of the day](#) flat roofs were the order in the small villages

in order

: [appropriate](#), [desirable](#) an apology is *in order*

in order to

: for the purpose of

on order

: in the process of being [ordered](#)

on the order of

1 : after the fashion of : [like](#) a genius *on the order of* Newton— D. B. Botkin

2 : [about](#), [approximately](#) spent *on the order of* two million dollars

to order

: according to the specifications of an order shoes made *to order*

Illustration of *order*

 Illustration of order

Noun

order 8b: 1 Corinthian, 2 Doric, 3 Ionic

In the meaning defined [above](#)

↓ [Other Words from *order*](#) ↓ [Synonyms & Antonyms](#) ↓ [Choose the Right Synonym](#) ↓ [More Example Sentences](#) ↓ [Learn More about *order*](#)

Keep scrolling for more

Other Words from *order*

Verb

orderable \ 'ôr-d(ə)rə-bəl  \ adjective

orderer \ 'ôr-dər-ər  \ noun

Noun

orderless \ 'ôr-dər-ləs  \ adjective

Synonyms & Antonyms for *order*

Synonyms: Verb

- [arrange](#),
- [array](#),
- [classify](#),
- [codify](#),
- [dispose](#),
- [draw up](#),
- [lay out](#),
- [marshal](#)
- (also [marshall](#)),
- [organize](#),
- [range](#),
- [systematize](#)

Synonyms: Noun

- [arrangement](#),
- [array](#),
- [disposal](#),
- [disposition](#),
- [distribution](#),
- [ordering](#),
- [sequence](#),
- [setup](#)

Antonyms: Verb

- [derange](#),
- [disarrange](#),
- [disarray](#),
- [disorder](#),
- [mess \(up\)](#),
- [muss \(up\)](#),
- [rumple](#),
- [upset](#)

[Visit the Thesaurus for More](#) »

Choose the Right Synonym for *order*

Verb

[order](#), [arrange](#), [marshal](#), [organize](#), [systematize](#), [methodize](#) mean to put persons or things into their proper places in relation to each other. [order](#) suggests a straightening out so as to eliminate confusion. *ordered* her business affairs [arrange](#) implies a setting in sequence, relationship, or adjustment. *arranged* the files numerically [marshal](#) suggests gathering and arranging in preparation for a particular operation or effective use. *marshaling* the facts for argument [organize](#) implies arranging so that the whole aggregate works as a unit with each element having a proper function. *organized* the volunteers into teams [systematize](#) implies arranging according to a predetermined scheme. *systematized* billing procedures [methodize](#) suggests imposing an orderly procedure rather than a fixed scheme. *methodizes* every aspect of daily living

synonyms see in addition [command](#)

Examples of *order* in a Sentence

Verb They *ordered* everyone out of the house. The soldiers were *ordered* back to the base.

See More  

Recent Examples on the Web: Verb Albion was providing grab-and-go meals after Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer *ordered* restaurants to close for all but carryout or delivery. — [David Jesse, *Detroit Free Press*, "Small Michigan colleges face bigger coronavirus challenge than big public universities," 21 Mar. 2020](#) Meanwhile, officials in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Washington state, and more have *ordered* all bars and restaurants to close. — [Cassidy Morrison, *Washington Examiner*, "Over 75 million under lockdown in US as weekend begins," 21 Mar. 2020](#)

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

See More  

First Known Use of *order*

Verb

13th century, in the meaning defined at [transitive sense 1](#)

Noun

13th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

History and Etymology for *order*

Verb

Middle English, from *ordre*, noun

Noun

Middle English, from Anglo-French *ordre*, from Medieval Latin & Latin; Medieval Latin *ordin-*, *ordo* ecclesiastical order, from Latin, arrangement, group, class; akin to Latin *ordiri* to lay the warp, begin

Keep scrolling for more

Learn More about *order*

Share *order*

[Post the Definition of order to Facebook](#)



[Share the Definition of order on Twitter](#)



Time Traveler for *order*



The first known use of *order* was in the 13th century

[See more words from the same century.](#)

Dictionary Entries near *order*

[ordeal bark](#)

[ordeal bean](#)

[ordeal tree](#)

[order](#)

[order about](#)

[order arms](#)

[order around](#)

[See More Nearby Entries](#)

Phrases Related to *order*

[call \(something\) to order](#)

[established order](#)

[gagging order](#)

[in \(good\) working order](#)

[in \(good\) working order/condition](#)

[in apple-pie order](#)

[in ascending order](#)

Statistics for *order*

Last Updated

24 Mar 2020

Look-up Popularity

Cite this Entry

“Order.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/order>. Accessed 4 Apr. 2020.

Style: MLA

Keep scrolling for more

More Definitions for *order*

alternative order

[noun](#)

Financial Definition of *alternative order*

What It Is

An **alternative order** is a group of limit orders linked together within a brokerage account. If one order is executed, all other linked orders are automatically canceled.

How It Works

Sometimes called an "either-or" order or a "one-cancels-all" order, an *alternative order* essentially gives an investor the choice to buy one out of a number of different [stocks](#) for the best price in the shortest amount of time.

If an order is partially filled, the remaining orders will be reduced proportionately to the remaining quantity of the unfilled order. If the customer cancels an order before the execution, all orders will be canceled. If the system cancels or rejects the order, the remaining orders will not automatically be canceled.

This trading strategy is best illustrated with an example.

Let's assume an investor wants to invest \$10,000 in the [market](#), but he wants to buy [stock](#) in only one of three companies. He knows the circumstances under which he wants to buy each company (the "trigger condition"). He places an alternative order with the following trigger conditions:

- a) [Limit Order](#) 1 - Company X is trading at \$40. The investor places a limit order to buy Company X if it drops to \$35.
- b) Limit Order 2 - Company Y is trading at \$42. The investor places a limit order to buy Company Y if it drops to \$38.
- c) Limit Order 3 - Company Z is trading at \$45. The investor places a limit order to buy Company Z if it drops to \$40.

Company X and Y hold steady, but Company Z drops to \$40 and triggers Limit Order 3. The limit order for Company Z is executed and automatically cancels the limit orders for Company X and Company Y.

Why It Matters

Alternative orders allow investors flexibility to bet on their informed hunches, while curtailing their exposure. They can make a dynamic bet on the [market](#), simultaneously playing several angles, with a floor as to how much they can lose.

This type of order is more complex than a normal order, and not all brokerages accept alternative orders. Even when brokerages do, the procedures, rules and [terms](#) may vary. Check with your [brokers](#) for the specific details before placing an alternative order.

Source: [Investing Answers](#)

open order

[noun](#)

Financial Definition of *open order*

What It Is

An **open order** is an instruction to buy or sell securities that has not been executed or cancelled. Another term used is "[backlog](#) order."

How It Works

An order may remain open when an investor places conditions on their transaction, such as a price minimum. If the condition is not met (e.g. the [stock](#) has not yet reached the minimum amount requested by the investor), the order remains "open."

Why It Matters

While a [market order](#) is executed immediately, an *open order* may take time to fill or may remain unfilled. It is important for the investor to monitor [market](#) conditions and keep track of their open orders and be sure that each order should remain in effect and be filled over time.

Source: [Investing Answers](#)

qualified domestic relations order

[noun](#)

Financial Definition of *qualified domestic relations order*

What It Is

A **qualified domestic relations order (QDRO)** is a legal document used to split a person's retirement plan, usually as part of a divorce decree.

How It Works

For example, let's assume that Jane and John are getting divorced. John has a 401(k) with \$500,000 in it. The presiding judge decides that they will split the 401(k) 50/50. In order to officially do so, the judge will sign a QDRO (pronounced "quadro") directing the account's [custodian](#) to [put](#) 50% of the 401(k) in a separate account under Jane's name.

A QDRO must specifically describe the percentage of benefits to be allocated to the ex-spouse. It may not award amounts or benefits that are not available under the spouse's retirement plan.

Why It Matters

QDROs help people allocate tax responsibilities after divorce. In our example, Jane becomes responsible for any [taxes](#) incurred when she begins taking distributions of the 401(k) [money](#). Without the QDRO, John would have been legally responsible for the taxes on the distributions, even if he gives or is ordered to give Jane the proceeds.

Source: [Investing Answers](#)

order

[verb](#)



English Language Learners Definition of *order*

(Entry 1 of 2)

- : to use your authority to tell someone to do something
- : to give an order to someone
- : to say that (something) must be done
- : to request (something) from a company

order

[noun](#)

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

- : a statement made by a person with authority that tells someone to do something
- : an instruction or direction that must be obeyed
- : a specific request asking a company to supply goods or products to a customer
- : a product or a group of products that someone has requested from a company

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

order

[verb](#)

or·der | \ 'òr-dər  [How to pronounce order \(audio\)](#) \
ordered; ordering

Kids Definition of *order*

(Entry 1 of 2)

1 : to put into a particular grouping or sequence : [arrange](#) Dictionary entries are *ordered* alphabetically.
2 : to give a command to or for The general *ordered* troops into battle. I went to the counter to *order* lunch.

order

[noun](#)

Kids Definition of *order* (Entry 2 of 2)

1 : a certain rule or regulation : [command](#) ... when he gave *orders* ... everyone knew ... that he expected to be obeyed.— Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty*
2 : the arrangement of objects or events in space or time List the names in alphabetical *order*.
3 : the way something should be He kept the room in *order*.
4 : the state of things when law or authority is obeyed Troops restored *order* after the riot.
5 : good working condition The telephone is out of *order*.
6 : a statement of what a person wants to buy Place your *order* for a birthday cake.
7 : goods or items bought or sold an *order* of pancakes
8 : a group of people united (as by living under the same religious rules or by loyalty to common needs or duties) He belongs to an *order* of monks.
9 orders plural : the office of a person in the Christian ministry holy *orders*
10 : a group of related living things (as plants or animals) that ranks above the family and below the class in scientific classification Bats form an *order* of mammals in the animal kingdom.
11 : a written direction to pay a sum of money
in order that
: so that
in order to
: for the purpose of

Keep scrolling for more

order

[transitive verb](#)

or·der | \ 'òrd-ər  [How to pronounce order \(audio\)](#) \
ordered; ordering \ 'òrd-(ə-)rɪŋ  [How to pronounce ordering \(audio\)](#) \

Medical Definition of *order*

(Entry 1 of 2)

: to give a prescription for : [prescribe](#) the doctor ordered bed rest

order

[noun](#)

Medical Definition of *order* (Entry 2 of 2)

: a category of taxonomic classification ranking above the family and below the class

order

[noun](#)

or·der

Legal Definition of *order*

(Entry 1 of 2)

1 : a state of peace, freedom from unruly behavior, and respect for law and proper authority maintain law and order

2 : an established mode or state of procedure a call to order

3a : a mandate from a superior authority — see also [executive order](#)

b : a ruling or command made by a competent administrative authority specifically : one resulting from administrative adjudication and subject to judicial review and enforcement an administrative order may not be inconsistent with the Constitution — *Wells v. State*, 654 So. 2d 145 (1995)

c : an authoritative command issued by the court violated a court order and was jailed for contempt

— **cease-and-desist order** \ ,sēs-ənd-di- 'zist-, -'sist- \

: an order from a court or quasi-judicial tribunal to stop engaging in a particular activity or practice (as an unfair labor practice) — compare [injunction](#), [mandamus](#), [stay](#)

— **consent order**

: an agreement of litigating parties that by consent takes the form of a court order

— **final order**

: an order of a court or quasi-judicial tribunal which leaves nothing further to be determined or accomplished in that forum except execution of the judgment and from which an appeal will lie

— **gag order**

: an order barring public disclosure or discussion (as by the involved parties or the press) of information relating to a case

— **order to show cause**

: an order requiring the prospective object of a legal action to show cause why that action should not take place

— called also show cause order

— **pretrial order**

: a court order setting out the rulings, stipulations, and other actions taken at a pretrial conference

— **protection order**

: restraining order in this entry

— **protective order**

: an order issued for the protection of a particular party: as

a : an order that limits, denies, or defers discovery by a party in order to prevent undue embarrassment, expense, oppression, or disclosure of trade secrets

b : restraining order in this entry

— **qualified domestic relations order**

: an order, decree, or judgment that satisfies the criteria set out in section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code for the payment of all or part of individual pension, profit sharing, or retirement benefits usually to a divorcing spouse (as for alimony or child support)

Note: The alienation or assignment of funds under a qualified domestic relations order does not affect the tax status of the plan from which such funds are paid.

— **restraining order** \ ri-'strā-niŋ- \

1 : temporary restraining order in this entry

2 : an order of a specified duration issued after a hearing attended by all parties that is intended to protect one individual from violence, abuse, harassment, or stalking by another especially by prohibiting or restricting access or proximity to the protected party excluded from the home by a *restraining order* issued because of domestic violence

— called also protection order, protective order

— compare temporary restraining order in this entry

— **show cause order**

: order to show cause in this entry

— **temporary restraining order**

1 : an order of brief duration that is issued ex parte to protect the plaintiff's rights from immediate and irreparable injury by preserving a situation or preventing an act until a hearing for a preliminary injunction can be held

2 : a protective order issued ex parte for a brief period prior to a hearing on a restraining order attended by both parties and intended to provide immediate protection from violence or threatened violence

— **turnover order** \ 'tər-, nō-vər- \

: an order commanding one party to turn over property to another especially : an order commanding a judgment debtor to turn over assets to a judgment creditor *turnover order* in aid of execution — *California Code of Civil Procedure*

d : a command issued by a military superior

4a : a direction regarding the party to whom a negotiable instrument shall be paid pay to the order of John Doe

— see also [money order](#), [negotiable instrument](#)

b : an instruction or authorization especially to buy or sell goods or securities or to perform work a purchase order a work order

— **alternative order**

: an order to a broker in which alternative methods of carrying out the order (as by buying or selling) are set forth

— **open order**

1 : an order to buy securities or commodity futures that remains effective until filled or canceled

2 : an order for merchandise expressed in very general terms so that the seller has considerable latitude in selecting the articles actually provided

— **stop order**

: an order to a broker to buy or sell a security when the price advances or declines to a designated level

c : goods or items bought or sold the order was received in good condition
to order

: according to the specifications of an order especially of a bearer or endorsee payable to bearer or *to order*

order

[adjective](#)

Legal Definition of *order* (Entry 2 of 2)

: payable to a named person or to an individual that person names by an endorsement order instrument — compare [bearer](#)

Keep scrolling for more

More from Merriam-Webster on *order*

Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for *order*](#)

Rhyming Dictionary: [Words that rhyme with *order*](#)

Spanish Central: [Translation of *order*](#)

Nglish: [Translation of *order* for Spanish Speakers](#)

Britannica English: [Translation of *order* for Arabic Speakers](#)

Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about *order*](#)

Comments on *order*

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

[Show Comments](#)  [Hide Comments](#) 

WORD OF THE DAY

solecism



[See Definitions and Examples](#) »

Get Word of the Day daily email!

SUBSCRIBE

Your email address

[Test Your Vocabulary](#)

Name that Thing: Flower Edition

-
- Name that flower
- [hyacinth chrysanthemum](#)
- [amaryllis hydrangea](#)

Can you spell these 10 commonly misspelled words?

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

Test Your Knowledge - and learn some interesting things along the way.

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

Love words? Need even more definitions?

Subscribe to America's largest dictionary and get thousands more definitions and advanced search—ad free!

[Merriam-Webster unabridged](#)

Words at Play

- [The Words of the Week - 4/3/20](#)
[Words from the week of 4/3/2020](#)
- [Words We're Watching: 'Criming'](#)
[An old noun with a new verb](#)
- ['Party': A Word for One or Many](#)
[A party can be any size.](#)
- [8 Colors from the Bigger Crayon Box](#)
[Here's where those fancy shades get their names.](#)

Ask the Editors

- [2019 Word of the Year: Behind the Scenes](#)

[How we chose 'they'](#)

- [Is It 'Hanger' or 'Hangar'?](#)

[How to remember which is which](#)

- [Literally](#)

[How to use a word that \(literally\) drives some people nuts.](#)

- [Is Singular 'They' a Better Choice?](#)

[The awkward case of 'his or her'](#)

Word Games

- [Name that Thing: Flower Edition](#)

[Can you correctly identify these flowers?](#)

[Take the quiz](#)

- [March 2020 Words of the Day Quiz](#)

[One month at a time.](#)

[Take the quiz](#)

- [Spell It](#)

[Can you spell these 10 commonly misspelled words?](#)

[Take the quiz](#)

- [Citation](#)

[Do you know the person or title these quotes describe?](#)

[Play the game](#)

[Merriam Webster](#)

Learn a new word every day. Delivered to your inbox!



OTHER MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARIES

- [SPANISH CENTRAL](#)
- [LEARNER'S ESL DICTIONARY](#)
- [WORDCENTRAL FOR KIDS](#)
- [VISUAL DICTIONARY](#)
- [SCRABBLE® WORD FINDER](#)
- [MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY](#)
- [BRITANNICA ENGLISH - ARABIC TRANSLATION](#)

- [ENGLISH - SPANISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATION](#)

FOLLOW US

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Instagram](#)

- [Browse the Dictionary:](#)
- [a](#)
- [b](#)
- [c](#)
- [d](#)
- [e](#)
- [f](#)
- [g](#)
- [h](#)
- [i](#)
- [j](#)
- [k](#)
- [l](#)
- [m](#)
- [n](#)
- [o](#)
- [p](#)
- [q](#)
- [r](#)
- [s](#)
- [t](#)
- [u](#)
- [v](#)
- [w](#)
- [x](#)
- [y](#)
- [z](#)
- [0-9](#)

- [Home](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Apps](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Shop](#)
- [Advertising Info](#)
- [Dictionary API](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Join MWU](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Word of the Year](#)
- [Puku](#)
- [Vocabulary Resources](#)
- [Law Dictionary](#)
- [Medical Dictionary](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)

- [Do Not Sell My Info](#)
- [Browse the Thesaurus](#)
- [Browse the Medical Dictionary](#)
- [Browse the Legal Dictionary](#)
- [Browse the Spanish-English Dictionary](#)

© 2020 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

[Learn More from M-W](#)

[Words of the Year: A Decade in Review](#)

[Learn More from M-W](#)

[Name that Thing: Flower Edition](#)

[Learn More from M-W](#)

[Study Up With Our Official SCRABBLE Dictionary](#)

[Learn More from M-W](#)

['Pandemic' vs 'Epidemic'](#)

[Learn More from M-W](#)

[2019 Word of the Year: Behind the Scenes](#)

×

You have been logged out.

To access your account, please log back in or contact us at customerservice@m-w.com to report this issue