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suspension

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sus·pen·sion | \ sə-ˈspen(t)-shən  [How to pronounce suspension \(audio\)](#) \

Definition of *suspension*

1 : the act of [suspending](#) : the state or period of being [suspended](#): such as

a : temporary removal (as from office or privileges)

b : temporary withholding (as of belief or decision)

c : temporary abrogation of a law or rule

d(1) : the holding over of one or more musical tones of a chord into the following chord producing a momentary discord and suspending the concord which the ear expects specifically : such a dissonance which resolves downward — compare [anticipation](#), [retardation](#)

(2) : the tone thus held over

e : stoppage of payment of business obligations : [failure](#) —used especially of a business or a bank

f : a rhetorical device whereby the principal idea is deferred to the end of a sentence or longer unit

2a : the act of hanging : the state of being hung

b(1) : the state of a substance when its particles are mixed with but undissolved in a fluid or solid

(2) : a substance in this state

(3) : a system consisting of a solid dispersed in a solid, liquid, or gas usually in particles of larger than colloidal size — compare [emulsion](#)

3 : something suspended

4 : the means by which something is suspended especially : the system of devices (such as springs) supporting the upper part of a vehicle on the axles



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Synonyms & Antonyms for *suspension*

Synonyms

- [abeyance](#),
- [cold storage](#),
- [deep freeze](#),
- [doldrums](#),
- [dormancy](#),
- [holding pattern](#),
- [latency](#),
- [moratorium](#),
- [quiescence](#),
- [suspended animation](#),
- [suspense](#)

Antonyms

- [continuance](#),
- [continuation](#)

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Examples of *suspension* in a Sentence

He was angry about his *suspension* from the team. His record shows several *suspensions* from school. He's *under suspension* for breaking the rules. a *suspension* of the rules She was punished by *suspension* of her driver's license.

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Recent Examples on the Web Since the pandemic forced the abrupt *suspension* of professional sports, Owens has received countless calls and emails from other vendors and his regular customers wondering how the usually smiling Peanut Man is weathering the storm. — [NBC News](#), "[I love what I do': Stadium vendors see no hope for returning to work in 2020](#)," 20 June 2020 Basically, the engine just isn't up to the fun quotient of the *suspension*. — [Michael Jordan](#), *Car and Driver*, "[Tested: 1982 Toyota Celica GT-S Highlights the Joys of Rear-Wheel Drive](#)," 19 June 2020 An international trade group for cruise lines said members will continue the *suspension* of trips to U.S. ports through mid-September because of the Covid-19 pandemic. — [Allison Prang](#), *WSJ*, "[Cruise Trade Group Suspends Trips to U.S. Ports Through September](#)," 19 June 2020 Meanwhile, Abbott says the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is warning bars and restaurants to follow health guidelines or risk the *suspension* of their liquor licenses. — [Greg Norman](#) | *Fox News*, *Fox News*, "[Texas governor says young people in 'bar-type settings' behind coronavirus spike](#)," 17 June 2020 An optional package for the *suspension* will provide even better high-speed handling. — [Peter Valdes-dapena](#), *CNN*, "[Ford's Mustang Mach 1 is back, with even more power](#)," 17 June 2020 Each carrier will determine the proper penalty for passengers who don't comply – which could include *suspension* of flying privileges. — [Caitlin O'kane](#), *CBS News*, "[Airlines threaten to ban travelers who refuse to wear face masks](#)," 16 June 2020 In 2017, the Denver monitor challenged its police force's lax use-of-force standards, prompting a more stringent policy, and the office has successfully advocated for the *suspension* of officers who inappropriately fired their weapons. — [Victor Luckerson](#), *The New Yorker*, "[Tulsa's Hopeful Anger](#)," 16 June 2020 If ten or more passengers on one flight test positive, the *suspension* increases to four weeks. — [David Meyer](#), *Fortune*, "[The companies that have proved their value in this crisis](#)," 15 June 2020

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

15th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

History and Etymology for *suspension*

Middle English *suspensyon*, from Anglo-French *suspension*, from Late Latin *suspension-*, *suspensio*, from Latin *suspendere*

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The first known use of *suspension* was in the 15th century

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More Definitions for *suspension*

suspension

[noun](#)

 [How to pronounce suspension \(audio\)](#)

English Language Learners Definition of *suspension*

- : the act of forcing someone to leave a job, position, or place for a usually short period of time as a form of punishment
- : the act of suspending someone
- : the act of stopping or delaying something for a usually short period of time
- : the act of making something invalid or ineffective for a usually short period of time

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

suspension

[noun](#)

sus·pen·sion | \ sə-ˈspen-shən  [How to pronounce suspension \(audio\)](#) \

Kids Definition of *suspension*

- 1 : the act of stopping, removing, or making someone or something ineffective for a time
- 2 : the state of being stopped, removed, or made ineffective for a time *suspension* of a game
- 3 : the period during which someone or something is stopped, removed, or made ineffective a two week *suspension* from school
- 4 : the act of hanging : the state of being hung
- 5 : the system of springs that support the upper part of a vehicle on the axles

suspension

[noun](#)

sus·pen·sion | \ sə-ˈspen-shən  [How to pronounce suspension \(audio\)](#) \

Medical Definition of *suspension*

- 1a : the state of a substance when its particles are mixed with but undissolved in a fluid or solid
- b : a substance in this state — see [oral suspension](#)
- 2 : a system consisting of a solid dispersed in a solid, liquid, or gas usually in particles of larger than colloidal size

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suspension

[noun](#)

sus·pen·sion

Legal Definition of *suspension*

- : the act of suspending
- : the state or period of being suspended the suspension of an employee

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sprout

squib

sprat

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commonly misspelled words?

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The Words of the Week - 6/26/20

Words from the week of 6/26/2020

•

Words We're Watching: 'Normie'

It blends in so well we almost
didn't see it.

•

6 Words from the Boxing Ring.

Their meanings have strayed from
the ring.

•

'Coleslaw' vs 'Cold slaw': A Food Name Review

'Cole' hints at what you're eating.

ASK THE EDITORS

•

How to Remember the Spelling of 'Definitely'

A definitive answer.

•

Video: Why Is There a 'C' in 'Indict'?

And who put it there, anyway?

•

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

-

A More Exception(al) Quiz

Which of these things doesn't
belong?

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-

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And also quite useless words

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