

switch

 1 of 2 noun'switch 

plural switches

[Synonyms of switch >](#)

- 1** : a slender flexible whip, rod, or twig
a riding *switch*
- 2** : an act of [switching](#): such as
 - a** : a blow with a switch
 - b** : a shift from one to another
 - c** : a change from the usual
that outfit is a *switch*
- 3** : a tuft of long hairs at the end of the tail of an animal (such as a cow)
→ see [cow illustration](#)
- 4** : a device made usually of two movable rails and necessary connections and designed to turn a locomotive or train from one track to another
- 5** **a** : a device for making, breaking, or changing the connections in an electrical circuit
b : a software [icon](#) that is used to select between one of usually two available states
Tap Edit and then toggle the *switch* next to each supported service to the appropriate setting.
—Jason Cipriani

switch

 2 of 2 verb

switched; switching; switches

transitive verb

1 : to strike or beat with or as if with a switch

2 : **WHISK, LASH**

a cat *switching* its tail

3 a (1) : to turn from one railroad track to another : **SHUNT**

(2) : to move (cars) to different positions on the same track within terminal areas

b : to make a shift in or exchange of

switch seats

4 a : to shift to another electrical circuit by means of a switch

b (1) : to operate an electrical switch so as to turn (a device) on or off → usually used with *on* or *off*

(2) : to change to or from an active state → usually used with *on* or *off*

switched on the gene

intransitive verb

1 : to lash from side to side

2 : to make a shift or exchange

'swi-chə-bəl  **adjective**

noun



Dictionary

Thesaurus

flogger

lash

scourge

whip

Verb

change

commute

exchange

shift

substitute

swap

trade

[See All Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus](#)

Noun

She flicked a **switch** and turned the lamp on.

He threw the **switch** to stop the machine.

Verb

[See More](#) ▾

Recent Examples on the Web

 Examples are automatically compiled from online sources to show current usage. [Read More](#)

Noun

way to have the kind of personal relationships with patients that attracted them to the profession in the first place.

— Karen Brown, *NPR*, 28 Mar. 2025

Verb

Budget enough time for a full night's sleep, and take short naps early in the day if needed. Adjust your medications for PsA if needed, such as **switching** to a different treatment or increasing your dose.

— Ruth Jessen Hickman, *Health*, 29 Mar. 2025

Entertainment gossip and news from Newsweek's network of contributors Millie Bobby Brown just **switched** up her hair again, debuting her darkest color yet.

— Ron Estes, *MSNBC Newsweek*, 29 Mar. 2025

[See All Example Sentences for switch](#)

Etymology

Noun

perhaps from Middle Dutch *swijch* twig

First Known Use

Noun

1597, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Verb



Dictionary

Thesaurus

See more words from the same year

bait and switch

dip switch

switch-hit

switch knife

switch on

that's a switch

toggle switch

dimmer switch

switch engine

switch-hitter

switch off

switch (shifts) with (someone)

time switch

bitch

fiche

hitch

itch

lich

ditch

glitch

ich

kitsch

mitch



Dictionary

Thesaurus

Swiss tea

switch

switch angle

[See All Nearby Words](#)

Style

MLA

"Switch." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/switch>. Accessed 7 Apr. 2025.

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- 2 : an act or an instance of switching
- 3 : a bunch of long hairs at the end of the tail of an animal (as a cow)
- 4 : a device made usually of two movable rails and necessary connections and designed to turn a train or streetcar from one track to another
- 5 : a device for making, breaking, or changing the connections in an electrical circuit

switch 2 of 2 verb

- 1 : to strike or whip with or as if with a switch
- 2 : to lash from side to side
- 3 : to turn, shift, or change by or as if by operating a switch
 - switch* off the light
 - switched* to a different channel
- 4 : to change one for another : **EXCHANGE**
 - switch* seats

noun

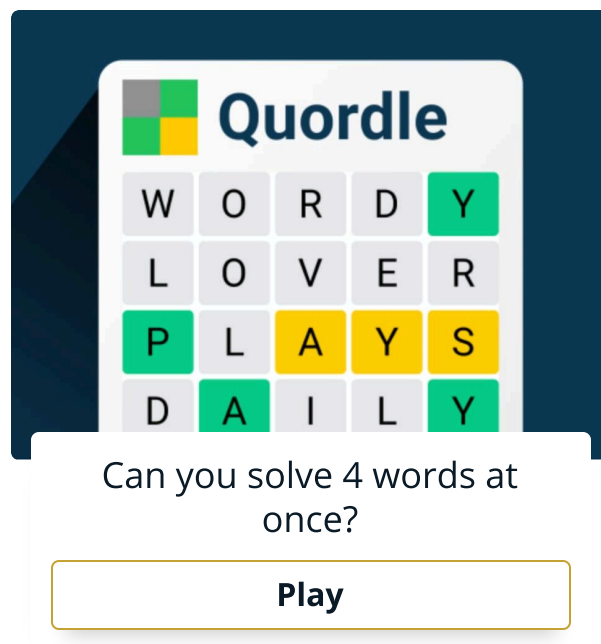
Nglish: [Translation of *switch* for Spanish Speakers](#)
Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about *switch*](#)



Dictionary

Thesaurus

MERRIAM-WEBSTER UNABRIDGED





Dictionary

Thesaurus

malleable 

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'When Pigs Fly' and Other Barnyard Idioms



Dictionary

Thesaurus

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Blossom Word Game

Pick the best words!

Play

Missing Letter

A daily crossword with a twist

Play

Name That Bird Quiz

Are you as wise as an owl or just another birdbrain?

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