



switch

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switch (switch)

n.

- An exchange or a swap, especially one done secretly.
 - A transference or shift, as of opinion or attention.
- A device used to break or open an electric circuit or to divert current from one conductor to another.
 - A device consisting of two sections of railroad track and accompanying apparatus used to transfer rolling stock from one track to another.
- A slender flexible rod, stick, or twig, especially one used for whipping.
 - The bushy tip of the tail of certain animals: *a cow's switch*.
 - A thick strand of real or synthetic hair used as part of a collure.
 - A flogging or lashing, as with a slender rod: *gave the ox a switch*.

v. **switched**, **switch-ing**, **switch-es**

v. tr.

- To exchange: *asked her brother to switch seats with her*.
 - To shift, transfer, or divert: *switched the conversation to a lighter subject*.
- To connect, disconnect, or divert (an electric current) by operating a switch.
 - To cause (an electric current or appliance) to begin or cease operation: *switched the lights on and off*.
 - Informal* To produce as if by operating a control. Often used with *on*: *switched on the charm*.
- To move (rolling stock) from one track to another; shunt.
- To whip with a switch, especially in punishing a child.
 - To jerk or swish abruptly or sharply: *a cat switching its tail*.

v. intr.

- To make or undergo a shift or an exchange: *The office has switched to shorter summer hours*.
- To swish sharply from side to side.

Phrasal Verb:

switch off *informal*

To stop paying attention; lose interest.

[Probably of Low German or Flemish origin.]

switch'a-ble *adj.*

switch'er *n.*

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switch (swɪtʃ)

n.

- (Electrical Engineering) a mechanical, electrical, electronic, or optical device for opening or closing a circuit or for diverting energy from one part of a circuit to another
- a swift and usually sudden shift or change
- an exchange or swap
- a flexible rod or twig, used esp for punishment
- the sharp movement or blow of such an instrument
- (Hairdressing & Grooming) a tress of false hair used to give added length or bulk to a woman's own hairstyle
- (Zoology) the tassel-like tip of the tail of cattle and certain other animals
- (Card Games) any of various card games in which the suit is changed during play
- (Railways) *US and Canadian* a railway siding
- (Railways) *US and Canadian* a railway point
- (Telecommunications) *informal Austral* See [switchboard](#)

vb.

- to shift, change, turn aside, or change the direction of (something)
- to exchange (places); replace (something by something else): *the battalions switched fronts*.
- (Railways) chiefly *US and Canadian* to transfer (rolling stock) from one railway track to another
- (Electrical Engineering) (*tr*) to cause (an electric current) to start or stop flowing or to change its path by operating a switch
- to swing or cause to swing, esp back and forth
- (*tr*) to lash or whip with or as if with a switch

[C16: perhaps from Middle Dutch *swijch* branch, twig]

'switcher *n.*

'switch, like *adj.*

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switch (swɪtʃ)

n.

- a turning, shifting, or changing.
- a device for turning on or off or directing an electric current or for making or breaking a circuit.
- a track structure for diverting moving trains or rolling stock from one track to another.
- a slender, flexible shoot, rod, etc., used esp. in whipping or disciplining.
- the act of whipping or beating with or as if with such an object; a stroke, lash, or whisking movement.
- a bunch or tress of long hair or some substitute, worn by women to supplement their own hair.
- a tuft of hair at the end of the tail of some animals.

v. t.

- to change or exchange.
- to turn, shift, or divert: *to switch the subject*.
- to connect, disconnect, or redirect (an electric circuit or the device it serves) by operating a switch (often fol. by *off* or *on*).
- to whip or beat with a switch or the like.
- to move, swing, or whisk (a cane, a fishing line, etc.) with a swift, lashing stroke.
- to move or transfer (a train, car, etc.) from one set of tracks to another.
 - to drop or add (cars) or to make up (a train).

v. i.

- to strike with or as if with a switch.
- to change, as direction or course; turn or shift: *to switch to another road*.
- to exchange or replace something with another.
- to move back and forth briskly, as a cat's tail.
- to be shifted, turned, etc., by means of a switch.

[1585–95; orig. uncertain]

switch'a-ble, *adj.*

switch'er, *n.*

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switch

Past participle: switched
Gerund: switching

Imperative




Imperative

switch

switch


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Thesaurus

Legend:  Synonyms  Related Words  Antonyms

Switch to [new thesaurus](#)

Noun 1. switch - control consisting of a mechanical or electrical or electronic device for making or breaking or changing the connections in a circuit

 **electric switch, electrical switch**

↔ **commutator** - switch for reversing the direction of an electric current

↔ **controller, control** - a mechanism that controls the operation of a machine; "the speed controller on his turntable was not working properly"; "I turned the controls over to her"

↔ **cutout** - a switch that interrupts an electric circuit in the event of an overload

↔ **ignition switch** - switch that operates a solenoid that closes a circuit to operate the starter

↔ **push button, button, push** - an electrical switch operated by pressing; "the elevator was operated by push buttons"; "the push beside the bed operated a buzzer at the desk"


↔ **selector switch, selector** - a switch that is used to select among alternatives

↔ **three-point switch, three-way switch** - an electric switch that has three terminals; used to control a circuit from two different locations

↔ **time-switch** - a switch set to operate at a desired time

↔ **on/off switch, on-off switch, toggle switch, toggle** - a hinged switch that can assume either of two positions

2. switch - an event in which one thing is substituted for another; "the replacement of lost blood by a transfusion of donor blood"

 **permutation, substitution, transposition, replacement**

↔ **variation, fluctuation** - an instance of change; the rate or magnitude of change



3. switch - hairpiece consisting of a tress of false hair; used by women to give shape to a coiffure

↔ **false hair, hairpiece, postiche** - a covering or bunch of human or artificial hair used for disguise or adornment

4. switch - railroad track having two movable rails and necessary connections; used to turn a train from one track to another or to store rolling stock

↔ **railroad track, railway, railroad** - a line of track providing a runway for wheels; "he walked along the railroad track"

5. switch - a flexible implement used as an instrument of punishment

↔ **birch rod, birch** - a switch consisting of a twig or a bundle of twigs from a birch tree; used to hit people as punishment; "my father never spared the birch"

↔ **cane** - a stiff switch used to hit students as punishment

↔ **ferule** - a switch (a stick or cane or flat paddle) used to punish children

↔ **instrument of punishment** - an instrument designed and used to punish a condemned person

↔ **ratan, rattan** - a switch made from the stems of the rattan palms

6. switch - a basketball maneuver; two defensive players shift assignments so that each guards the player usually guarded by the other

↔ **basketball play** - a play executed by a basketball team


7. switch - the act of changing one thing or position for another; "his switch on abortion cost him the election"

 **switching, shift**

↔ **change** - the action of changing something; "the change of government had no impact on the economy"; "his change on abortion cost him the election"

↔ **switcheroo** - a sudden unexpected switch

Verb 1. switch - change over, change around, as to a new order or sequence

 **switch over, exchange**

↔ **change by reversal, reverse, turn** - change to the contrary; "The trend was reversed"; "the tides turned against him"; "public opinion turned when it was revealed that the president had an affair with a White House Intern"

2. switch - exchange or give (something) in exchange for

 **swap, swoop, trade**

↔ **exchange, interchange, change** - give to, and receive from, one another; "Would you change places with me?"; "We have been exchanging letters for a year"



3. switch - lay aside, abandon, or leave for another; "switch to a different brand of beer"; "She switched psychiatrists"; "The car changed lanes"

 **change, shift**

↔ **exchange, convert, commute, change** - exchange or replace with another, usually of the same kind or category; "Could you convert my dollars into pounds?"; "He changed his name"; "convert centimeters into inches"; "convert holdings into shares"

↔ **change** - change clothes; put on different clothes; "Change before you go to the opera"

↔ **transition** - make or undergo a transition (from one state or system to another); "The airline transitioned to more fuel-efficient jets"; "The adagio transitioned into an allegro"

↔ **shift** - change gears; "you have to shift when you go down a steep hill"

↔ **break** - change suddenly from one tone quality or register to another; "Her voice broke to a whisper when she started to talk about her children"

↔ **channel-surf, surf** - switch channels, on television

↔ **leap, jump** - pass abruptly from one state or topic to another; "leap into fame"; "jump to a conclusion"; "jump from one thing to another"

↔ **diphthongise, diphthongize** - change from a simple vowel to a diphthong; "This vowel diphthongized in Germanic"

↔ **cut** - make an abrupt change of image or sound; "cut from one scene to another"

↔ **break** - change directions suddenly

4. switch - make a shift in or exchange of; "First Joe led, then we switched"

 **change over, shift**

↔ **alter, change, modify** - cause to change; make different; cause a transformation; "The advent of the automobile may have altered the growth pattern of the city"; "The discussion has changed my thinking about the issue"

↔ **back** - shift to a counterclockwise direction; "the wind backed"

↔ **veer** - shift to a clockwise direction; "the wind veered"

5. switch - cause to go on or to be engaged or set in operation; "switch on the light"; "throw the lever"

 **flip, throw**

↔ **switch on, turn on** - cause to operate by flipping a switch; "switch on the light"; "turn on the stereo"

↔ **switch off, turn off, turn out, cut** - cause to stop operating by disengaging a switch; "Turn off the stereo, please"; "cut the engine"; "turn out the lights"

↔ **mesh, lock, operate, engage** - keep engaged; "engaged the gears"

6. switch - flog with or as if with a flexible rod

↔ **flog, lash, lather, trounce, welt, whip, slash, strap** - beat severely with a whip or rod; "The teacher often flogged the students"; "The children were severely trounced"

7. switch - reverse (a direction, attitude, or course of action)

flip-flop, interchange, alternate, tack, flip

↔ change by reversal, reverse, turn - change to the contrary; "The trend was reversed"; "the tides turned against him"; "public opinion turned when it was revealed that the president had an affair with a White House intern"

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switch

noun

1. control, button, lever, on/off device a light switch

2. change, shift, transition, conversion, reversal, alteration, about-turn, change of direction New technology made the switch to oil possible.

verb

1. change, shift, convert, divert, deviate, change course I'm switching to a new gas supplier.

2. exchange, trade, swap, replace, substitute, rearrange, interchange The ballot boxes have been switched.

turn on

switch something off turn off, shut off, deactivate, cut She switched off the coffee-machine.

switch something on turn on, put on, set off, activate, initiate, get going, set in motion, trigger off, initialize He pointed the light at his feet and tried to switch it on.

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switch

noun

The act of exchanging or substituting:

change, commutation, exchange, interchange, shift, substitution, trade, transposition.

Informal: swap.

verb

1. To move to and fro vigorously and usually repeatedly:

wag, waggle, wave.

2. To leave or discard for another:

change, shift.

3. To give up in return for something else:

change, commute, exchange, interchange, shift, substitute, trade.

Informal: swap.

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Translations

Select a language:

Spanish / Español

interruptor

cambiar

conmutador

desviar

cambio

switch

[swɪtʃ]

A. N

1. (Elec) → interruptor m, suich(e) m (LAm), switch m (LAm)
the switch was on/off → el interruptor estaba encendido/apagado
at the flick of a switch → con sólo darle a un interruptor
to flick a switch on/off → encender/apagar un interruptor
light switch → interruptor m de la luz
the on-off switch → el interruptor de encendido y apagado
he threw the switch on the tape recorder → dio al interruptor del magnetofón

2. (= change) → cambio m (from, to de a) this represents a dramatic switch in US policy → esto representa un cambio dramático en la política estadounidense
to make the switch from X to Y → pasar de X a Y
he had made the switch from writing screenplays to novels → había pasado de escribir guiones a escribir novelas
they have made the switch from dictatorship to democracy → han hecho la transición de la dictadura a la democracia

3. (= swap, substitution) → cambio m
to make a switch → hacer un cambio
that's not my necklace, there has been a switch → ésa no es mi gargantilla, me la han cambiado or me han hecho un cambio, ésa no es mi gargantilla, me han dado un cambiao

4. (o.f.) (= stick) → vara f, (for riding) → fusta f

5. [of hair] → postizo m

6. (US) (Rail) (= points) → agujas fpl, (= siding) → vía f muerta

B. VT

1. (= change) [+ tactics] → cambiar de
if you switch allegiance from one party to another → si cambias de bando y vas de un partido a otro ...
how quickly people switch allegiances! → ¡hay que ver con qué rapidez se cambia de chaqueta la gente!
50 per cent of car buyers are prepared to switch brands → un 50 por ciento de los compradores de coche están dispuestos a pasarse a una nueva marca

2. (= move) [+ production] → trasladar (from, to de a) she quickly switched the conversation to another topic → rápidamente desvió la conversación hacia otro tema

3. (= swap, exchange) (honestly) → cambiar, (dishonestly) → cambiar, dar el cambiao a
we had to switch taxis when the first broke down → tuvimos que cambiar de taxi cuando el primero tuvo una avería
the ballot boxes have been switched → han cambiado las urnas, han dado el cambiao a las urnas
to switch sth for sth → cambiar algo por algo
he switched the real painting with the fake one → cambió el cuadro verdadero por el falso

4. (Elec) he switched the heater to "low" → puso el calentador en "bajo"

5. (esp US) (Rail) to switch a train to another line → cambiar un tren a otra vía

6. (= lash) [+ tail] → mover, agitar
to switch the grass with one's cane → agitar la hierba con la vara

C. VI

1. (= change) → cambiar (from, to de a) he switched to another topic → cambió de tema
I've switched to a cheaper brand of washing powder → (me) he cambiado a una marca de detergente más barata

2. (= swap round) → hacer un cambio, cambiarse (with con) he had switched with another driver → había hecho un cambio con otro conductor, se había cambiado con otro conductor

3. (= move) [production] → trasladarse (to a) production will switch to the Glasgow plant next week → la producción se trasladará a la planta de Glasgow la semana que viene
you can switch between windows using the mouse → puedes cambiar de una ventana a otra utilizando el ratón

switch back

A. VI + ADV (to original plan, product, allegiance) → volver a cambiarse
to switch back to sth → volver a (cambiar a) algo
let's switch back to the other programme → volvamos (a cambiar) al otro programa

B. VT + ADV she switched the heater back to high/low → volvió a cambiar el calentador a la posición alta/baja
to switch the light back on → volver a encender la luz
to switch the heater/oven back on → volver a poner or encender el calentador/horno

switch off

A. VT + ADV [+ light, television, gas] → apagar (Auf) [+ ignition, engine] → parar
he switched the radio off → apagó la radio
the oven switches itself off → el horno se apaga solo
to switch off the electricity → apagar la corriente or la luz

B. VI + ADV

1. (Elec) [washing-machine, light, heating] → apagarse
the dryer switches on and off automatically → la secadora se enciende y apaga automáticamente

2. (= stop listening) → desconectar(se)

switch on

A. VT + ADV

1. (Elec, Auf) [+ light, television, gas, electricity] → encender, prender (LAm); [+ alarm clock, burglar alarm] → poner
he switched on the light → encendió la luz
to leave the television switched on → dejar la televisión puesta or encendida
see also ignition

2. (fig)

2.1. (= use) to switch on the charm → ponerse encantador

22. (= excite) *his music switches me on* → su música me pone a tono

B. VI + ADV (Elec) [washing-machine, light, heating] → encenderse; [viewer] → encender la televisión, poner la televisión, prender la televisión (LAM); [listener] → encender la radio, poner la radio, prender la radio (LAM); [driver] → arrancar

the light switches on automatically → las luces se encienden automáticamente

switch over

A. VT + ADV *to switch over A and B* → cambiar A por B

to switch the programme over → cambiar de cadena

B. VI + PREP *to switch over (TV, Rad)* → cambiar de canal

to switch over to another station → cambiar a otra emisora

we've switched over to gas → (nos) hemos cambiado or pasado a gas

switch round switch around

A. VT + ADV

1. (= swap round) → cambiar

2. (= move) [+ furniture] → cambiar de sitio

B. VI + ADV → cambiarse

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switch (switʃ) *noun*

1. a small lever, handle or other device eg for putting or turning an electric current on or off. *The switch is down when the power is on and up when it's off. He couldn't find the light-switch.* **interruptor, conmutador**

2. an act of turning or changing. *After several switches of direction they found themselves on the right road.* **cambio, viraje**

3. a thin stick. **vara, varilla**

verb

to change, turn. He switched the lever to the 'off' position; Let's switch over to another programme; Having considered that problem, they switched their attention to other matters. **cambiar; desviar**

switchback *noun*

a railway eg in an amusement park, or a road that has many ups and downs (and sudden turns). *Let's go along the switchback.* **montaña rusa**

switchboard *noun*

a board with many switches for controlling electric currents etc, or for making connections by telephone, eg within a large office etc: **panel de conmutación; centralita/central telefónica, cuadro conmutador**

switch on/off

to put or turn on/off (an electric current / light etc). He switched on the light; Switch off the electricity before going on holiday. **encender; apagar**

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switch → **cambiar**, **interruptor**

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switch

n. [instrumento] cambio; conector eléctrico;
v. cambiar;
to ___ *off* → desconectar; cambiar;
to ___ *on* → conectar.

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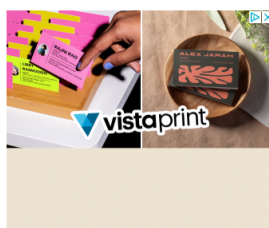
- *May I turn on the light?* (US)
Can I switch the light on? (UK) → ¿Puedo encender la luz?
- *May I turn off the light?* (US)
Can I switch the light off? (UK) → ¿Puedo apagar la luz?
- *May I turn off the radio?* (US)
Can I switch the radio off? (UK) → ¿Puedo apagar la radio?
- *Can I switch rooms?* → ¿Puedo cambiarme de habitación?
- *How do you turn it on?* (US)
How do you switch it on? (UK) → ¿Cómo se enciende?

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switch



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switch engine
switch grass
switch litter
switch horn

switch (someone or something) through (to someone or something)


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