



surround



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# surround 1 of 2 verb

sur·round [\(sə-'raʊnd\)](#)

**surrounded; surrounding; surrounds**

[Synonyms of surround >](#)

*transitive verb*

- 1 a (1)** : to enclose on all sides : **ENVELOP**  
the crowd *surrounded* her
- (2)** : to enclose so as to cut off communication or retreat : **INVEST entry 2**
- b** : to form or be a member of the entourage of  
flatterers who *surround* the king
- c** : to constitute part of the environment of  
*surrounded* by poverty
- d** : to extend around the margin or edge of : **ENCIRCLE**  
a wall *surrounds* the old city
- 2** : to cause to be **surrounded** by something  
*surrounded* himself with friends

# surround 2 of 2 noun

: something (such as a border or ambient environment) that **surrounds**  
... from urban centre to rural *surround*.  
— Emrys Jones



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**Verb**

[Relevance](#)

encircle

encompass

circle

embrace

ring

**Noun**

surroundings

environment

atmosphere

environs

climate

context

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

**Verb**

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A wall **surrounds** the old city.

They had the suspect **surrounded**.

She was suddenly **surrounded** by a crowd of excited fans.

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– David McHugh, *Los Angeles Times*, 24 Feb. 2020

The **surrounding** area is pretty rural—forests, vineyards.

– Condé Nast, *Condé Nast Traveler*, 24 Feb. 2026

### Noun

While not the biggest change from its forbear, the 40 Series face would go on to become iconic, its round headlights within a white grille **surround** defining the model in the public’s eye.

– Will Sabel Courtney, *Robb Report*, 5 Feb. 2026

And yes, the infamous petri-dish smiley faces were plastered around the entire **surround**-screen as creator Vince Gilligan chatted with stars Rhea Seehorn, Karolina Wydra, Carlos-Manuel Vesga and Samba Schutte (who also moderated).

– Anthony D'alessandro, *Deadline*, 3 Feb. 2026

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### Etymology

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#### Verb

Middle English, to flood, inundate, from Anglo-French *surunder*, from Late Latin *superundare*, to overflow, from Latin *super-* + *unda* wave; influenced in meaning by [ROUND entry 5](#) — more at [WATER](#)

### First Known Use

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#### Verb

circa 1616, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a\(1\)](#)



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**TIME TRAVEL**

**The first known use of *surround* was circa 1616**

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[aground](#)

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[eastbound](#)

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[fairground](#)

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◀ surrogation **surround** surrounder ▶

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Style

"Surround." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/surround>. Accessed 26 Feb. 2026.  
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# surround 1 of 2 verb

sur·round sə-ˈraʊnd

: to enclose on all sides : **ENCIRCLE**

# surround 2 of 2 noun

: something (as a border) that surrounds



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