



Right

Exceptional Expressions For Everyday Events

Understanding the many, many ways in which the word **right** is used will certainly expand students' language facility. **Right** serves as an adjective, an adverb, a noun, and a verb, in addition to appearing in quite a few vivid idioms such as "right as rain" and "right off the bat." As an adjective, **right** can mean morally good, factually correct, or appropriate. It was tempting to keep the money he found, but Marcus knew returning it was the right thing to do. The math problem had only one right answer. Maria went shopping for the right scarf to match her new dress. **Right** also refers to one side of a person or thing in the context of right versus left (right hand, right eye, right field).

Right as a verb means to restore something to its normal or upright position (as in to right a sailboat after it has turned over in the water), or to redress an injustice. Merely saying he was sorry did not seem to right the damage the man had caused.

In addition to its directional uses, the noun **right** is an important word in social and legal contexts. **Right** means that which is morally, ethically, or legally proper. Even young children know right from wrong. Laura had every right to be angry when the other girls bullied her. For many years, women in the United States did not have a legal right to vote. Judges often weigh, or balance, the rights of individuals against the good of the society.

Follow-Ups

- What is the difference between "I'll be right back" and "I will return later"?
- What is the difference between doing the right thing and doing what works best for you?

The Spanish Connection

The word **right** comes from the Old English word *riht*, meaning "just, good, fair, proper, fitting." This shows that the most common use for the word **right** has not changed much from the original meaning. The Spanish word for **right** is *correcto(a)*. *Correcto(a)* is not a cognate for the word **right**, but it is the cognate for **correct**.

Word Changes

- As an adverb, **right** sometimes takes an **-ly** ending, and sometimes not. The race car driver was rightly famous for his skill. Voters are rightly worried about the state of the economy. But one can also say "Turn right at the next traffic light," or "If you guess right, you will win the prize."
- Just to make things a little more challenging, in the sentence "Make a right turn," **right** is an adjective. In "Turn right," **right** is an adverb. If you say "Turn to the right," **right** is a noun." But if you right the car's steering wheel after the turn, **right** is a verb.



Right



Right as in fitting

- fitting
- proper
- appropriate
- suitable
- respectable
 - just
 - fair
- perfect

Right as in to be correct

- correct
- precise
- accurate
 - true
- genuine
- authentic
- satisfactory
 - exact
 - real

Right as in to confirm

- validate
- verify
- confirm
- authenticate
- confirm
- certify

Right as in the best option

- favorable
- desirable
- convenient
- advantageous
- decent



Right

IDIOMS

- Right off the bat
- Right on the money/nose
- Coming at me from right and left
- Right as rain
- Get off on the right foot
- Might is right
- Right on!
- Right hand man
- The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing
- Two wrongs don't make a right

COMMON PHRASES

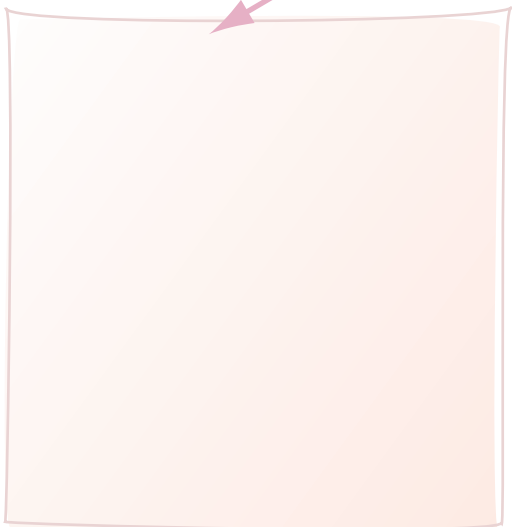
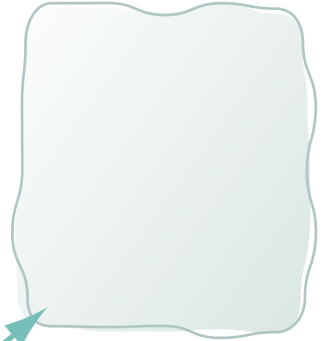
- Right there
- Right away/now
- Right this minute
- Come right in

THE SPANISH CONNECTION

- appropriate / apropiado(a)
- respectable / respetable
- precise / preciso(a)
- genuine / genuino(a)
- authentic / auténtico(a)
- satisfactory / satisfactorio(a)
- exact / exacto(a)
- authenticate / autentificar
- confirm / confirmar
- favorable / favorable
- perfect / perfecto



Right



Right



Inflected Endings

- rightsⁿ
- rightly^{adv}

Derivational Prefixes & Suffixes

- upright^{suf}
- outright^{suf}
- alright^{suf}
- downright^{suf}
- forthright^{suf}
- righteousⁿ
- rightfulⁿ

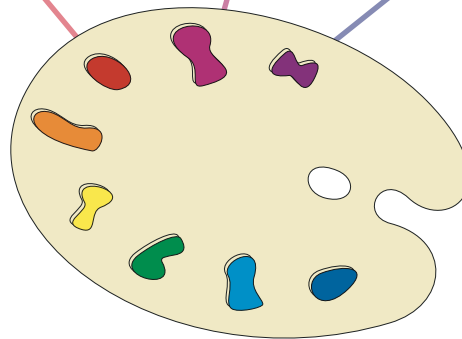
Compound Words

Right used as an adverb

- right-about
- right-hand
- right-of-way
- right-side-out
- right on
- right stuff
- right side up
- right away
- right angle

Right used as a noun

- copyright
- birthright



Morphological Family for Right

^{adv} Right used as an adverb

ⁿ Right used as a noun

^v Right used as a verb

^{suf} Right used as a suffix





Right

