



Show

Exceptional Expressions For Everyday Events

In a classroom, students may be asked to show how they solved a math problem. Teachers may show students how to use microscopes correctly. In both situations, the activity requires a demonstration of how a task is accomplished. The word **show** can be used as a verb or as a noun.

To show artwork is to let people see it. A student might need to show a note from a teacher to his parents. A traveler could be asked to show her passport at an airport. **To show** can also mean to prove or to confirm. For example, a student might be asked to show that he can be trusted to care for the class pet.

As a noun, **show** refers to a public display or performance. A show could be live theater, such as a play on Broadway in New York City. It could be a television or radio program, or even the entertainment provided by a musician on the street.

Follow-Ups

- How is demonstrating a concept different from putting your work on display?
- What does it mean to exhibit certain behaviors or traits?
- How might students who like to write showcase their talent?

The Spanish Connection

The word **show** comes from the Middle English *sheuen* that means “to look at, display.” From the definition of *sheuen*, we see that the original meaning for **show** was a verb that over time developed into use as a noun. The Spanish word for **to show** is *mostrar*. **Show** and *mostrar* are not cognates, but some synonyms for **show** are.

Word Changes

- In the late 19th century, a popular form of public entertainment was provided by groups of traveling performers. These events were known as **dog and pony shows** because these groups often performed with these animals. Today the idiom **dog and pony show** is used, in a somewhat negative sense, to refer to a presentation that is overdone, especially one that is part of a promotional campaign.
- In modern times, there are many different kinds of shows, and **show** is often used to form compound words such as showcase, showtime, and showmanship.
- Some synonyms for the verb **show** are morphological family members of some synonyms for the noun **show**. For example, **to exhibit** is often defined as “to show artwork,” while the noun **exhibition** is a public display of artwork.



Show



Show as in to demonstrate

- demonstrate
- display
- exhibit
- present

Show as in an exhibition

- display
- exhibition
- demonstration
- presentation
 - play
 - act
- program

Show as in to prove

- prove
- illustrate
- confirm
- establish



Show

IDIOMS

- Show off
- The show must go on
- Show and tell
- Show me the light/way
- Show the world
- Dog and pony show
- No show
- Show you the door
- Show your true colors
- Show your face
- Show of good faith
- Steal the show
- Tip your hand

COMMON PHRASES

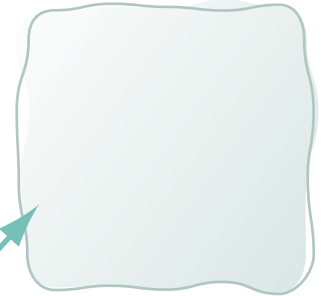
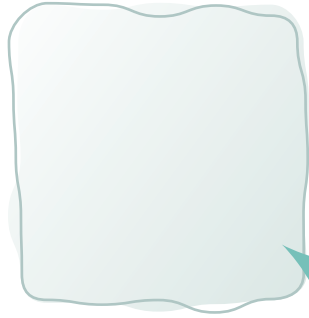
- TV/radio/game show
- Show case
- Show up
- Show business
- Show of hands
- Show me

THE SPANISH CONNECTION

- demonstration / demostración
- exhibition / exposición
- exhibit / exhibir
- presentation / presentación
- illustrate / ilustrar
- illustration / ilustración
- confirm / confirmar



Show



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Show



Inflected Endings

- shows^v
- showed^v
- showing^v

Derivational Suffixes

- showy^v
- shower[≠]

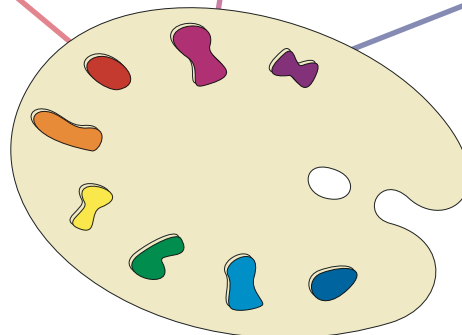
Compound Words

Show used as a noun

- auto show
- cat show
- dog show
- air show
- horse show
- light show
- news show
- quiz show
- puppet show
- tv show
- one-man show
- show stopper
- showboat

Show used as a verb

- show [animal]
(e.g., show dog)
- show-and-tell
- showbiz
- showtime



Morphological Family for Show

^v Show used as a verb

[≠] Not derived from Show



Show

