

• Shorter
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Dictionary

FIFTH EDITION

•
THE WORLD'S MOST TRUSTED DICTIONARIES

like /laik/ verb¹

[Old English *lician* = Old Frisian *lika*, Old Saxon *likan* (Dutch *lijken*), Old High German *lihhen*, Old Norse *lika*, Gothic *leikan*, from Germanic, from base also of *lich* noun.]

1 a verb trans. (orig. with dat. obj.). Be pleasing to, suit, (a person). Now arch. & dial. OE. †b verb intrans. Be pleasing, be liked or approved. OE-E17.

†2 verb refl. & intrans. Take pleasure; delight in something. ME-M16.

3 verb intrans. Be pleased, be glad. obsolete exc. Scot. ME.

†4 verb intrans. Be in good condition; get on, thrive, (well, better, etc.). Latterly chiefly as *liking* ppl adjective. ME-L19.

5 verb trans. a Find agreeable, congenial, or satisfactory; feel attracted to or favourably impressed by (a person); have a taste for, take pleasure in, (a thing, doing, to be, to do, etc.). Also *like well* (now arch. exc. with qualification, e.g. very, or as compar. better or superl. best). ME. †b Find it agreeable, feel inclined, (to do, to be). In conditional use (should like etc.) expr. desire, derision, or scepticism. ME. †c Prefer, choose to have, (a thing, to do, †that; a person or thing to do, to be, adjectival compl. (with to be understood), (to be done). M16. †d In interrog. with how: feel about, regard, (a person or thing, doing, (in conditional use) to do). L16. †e With conditional aux.: wish to have. E19.

6 verb intrans. Derive pleasure of, a person or thing; approve of, become fond of, obsolete exc. dial. LME.

7 verb intrans. Entertain feelings of affection. arch. L16.

Q 1 Sir W. Scott At first, it liked me ill. D. G. Ross with rode suddenly upon a certain path that liked me not. H. B. Stowe I may be sure that the young man, like your servant, D. H. Lawrence I have been thinking of you, like the liked singing. T. P. Power An Englishman never likes to be beaten. A. K. Alford Nobody makes a mess of a steak and kidney pudding. I even liked cold beef and eggs.

S. M. Jackson When there is a choice of things to do, the first is to do what you like best. Rodney better than Edward. b. J. Locke He may either go or stay, as he best likes. Shelley if you would like to go, we'll visit my Dickens. I should like to see you. I. B. Waugh I should like to go with them and drink beer. c. S. Colvin The sports of Haydon were the music he liked best to play. A. Campbell He would like me to explain how I had been able to steer clear of these 'troubles'. G. B. Shaw The Chorice (how do you like the word?) of Samson Agonistes. L. Carroll How do you like sharing the mirth of the granddaughters. J. Tucker How would you like to be half-starved for a bit. S. T. Warner Would Mr. Fortune like a pig too?

Phrases: and like it (after an imper.) and any complaint will be unheeded. if you like colloq. if you wish to express it or consider it that way; indeed, perhaps. I like that! iron. expr. surprise or just at another's impudence, conceit, etc. know what one likes: see KNOW verb. like it or not colloq. whether it is acceptable or not. like to hear oneself speak, like to hear oneself talk: see HEAR verb. not like the look of: see LOOK noun. wouldn't you like to know, wouldn't he like to know: see KNOW verb.

like /laik/ verb². LME.

[from LIKE adjective etc.]

†1 verb trans. Make in a certain likeness; represent as like to; compare to; make a likeness of. LME-E17.

2 verb intrans. Orig., seem, pretend. Later, look like or be near to doing something or to being treated in a specified manner. Foll. by to do. Now non-standard, chiefly in had liked to do. LME.

Q 2 SHAKESPEARE Much Ado We had liked to have had our two noses snapp'd off.

-like /laik/ suffix.

[from LIKE adjective etc.]

Forming (a) adjectives from nouns & (chiefly Scot.) adjectives, with the sense 'similar to, characteristic of, befitting, (one who is), resembling (that of)', as *doglike*, *ladylike*, *shell-like*, *gluey-like*; (b) (now colloq.) adverbs from nouns & adjectives, with the senses 'in the manner of', 'like one who is', as *coward-like*, *strangelike*.

† A hyphen is usual in less common words of more than one syllable and in all words ending in -l.

likeable /'laikəb(ə)/ adjective. Also likable. M18.

[from LIKE verb¹ + -ABLE.]

Esp. of a person: easy to like; pleasant, agreeable.

■ *likeable* noun E19. *likeableness* noun M19.

likelihood /'laiklihd/ noun. Long arch. LME.

[from LIKELY + -HEAD.]

1 = LIKELIHOOD 2. Chiefly in *by likelihood*, in all likelihood. LME.

†2 = LIKELIHOOD 1. Only in LME.

likeness /'likenis/ noun. LME.

[from LIKELY + -HOOD.]

†1 Likeness, similarity; an instance of this, a resemblance. LME-L17.

2 The quality or fact of being likely; an instance of this, a (good) chance. (Foll. by of, †to do) LME.

†3 A thing that is likely, a probability; a ground of probable inference, an indication. Freq. in pl. M16-M17.

The quality of offering a prospect of success; promise. Now only as an echo of Shakes. M16.

5 STATISTICS. A function of the variable parameters of a family of probability distributions that depends on a fixed set of data and equals the probability of the data, if these are assumed to relate to a population whose distribution has the given parameters. E20.

Q 2 H. CARPENTER There is every likelihood that she knew his books. A. S. M. Association with other criminals carried the likelihood of reinforcing... comes as a way of life. In all likelihood, in likelihood in all probability, very probably, the likelihood the probable fact. A. SHAKESPEARE I. A fellow of no mark nor likelihood.

Comb.: likelihood ratio statistics the ratio of two likelihoods based on alternative hypotheses about the parameters of a distribution, used in testing these hypotheses.

likeness /'likenis/ noun. Now rare. LME.

[from LIKELY + -NESS.]

†1 = LIKELIHOOD 1. LME-E18.

2 = LIKELIHOOD 2. LME.

†3 = LIKELIHOOD 4. LME-M18.

likely /'li:kli/ adjective & adverb. ME.

[Old Norse (*glíkligr*, from *likr* LIKE adjective etc. + *-ligr* -LY¹.)

▶ A adjective. 1 Having an appearance of truth or fact; that looks as if it would happen, be realized, or prove to be what is alleged or suggested; probable; to be reasonably expected to do, to be, (with impers. it); that. ME.

†2 Having a resemblance, similar; resembling an original. LME-M17.

3 Apparently suitable or qualified (for a thing); apparently able or fitted (to do, to be). LME.

4 Having the appearance or giving evidence of vigour or ability; giving promise of success or excellence. LME.

†5 Seemly, becoming, appropriate. LME-M18.

6 Good-looking. Chiefly US & dial. LME.

Q 1 E. M. Forster Hope that none of your friends are likely to come in. I. A. Taylor In a television studio, where the acoustic is likely to be drier. A. THWARTS It seems likely that St Paul's was the church Edmund was going to. H. Balfour Officers... were six times as likely to be killed as their men. G. GARDNER His life provided models for behaviour in any likely circumstance. *London Guardian* Surveys carried out last winter have helped to predict likely road conditions. A likely story: expr. disbelief of another's statement. as likely as not quite probably, not likely colloq. certainly not, more strongly not probably likely: see also not PROBABLY likely. 3 C. BURNETT Lily gave me these papers as the likelyest man to get them perfected. G. LORR He made a wide arc... until he came in a likely camp site. 4 Birmingham Post The department has ten jobs on offer to likely boys and girls.

▶ B adverb. †1 In a like or similar manner, similarly; (with ref. to portraiture) with close resemblance. LME-L16.

2 Probably, in all probability. Now chiefly N. Amer., Scot., & dial., & in most likely, very likely. LME.

†3 In a fit manner, suitably, reasonably. LME-L17.

Q 2 B. Jowett You may be very likely right in that. D. MARSHALL A middle-aged person has likely learned how to have a little fun.

liken /'li:kən/ verb. ME.

[from LIKE adjective etc. + -EN¹.]

1 verb trans. Represent as similar, point out the similarity of. Foll. by to. ME. †b In pass. Be associated by repute with another, esp. as a lover or future spouse. Foll. by with, to. Long obsolete exc. Scot. M16.

†2 verb intrans. & trans. Be or become similar to, be or become like. ME-M19.

3 verb trans. Make like. rare. LME.

Q 1 ANTHONY SMITH Plato likened memory to a wax tablet.

■ *likening* noun (a) the action of the verb; †(b) a comparison. a simile. ME.

likeness /'likenis/ noun.

[Old English (*gelíkenes*, formed as ALIKE adjective + -NESS.)

†1 A person's stature. Only in OE.

2 A visual representation of a person or thing; a copy, an image, a portrait. Also, a person who closely resembles another. OE.

3 A shape or form like or identified as something, a semblance or guise of. ME.

4 The quality or fact of being like; (a) resemblance, (a) similarity. (Foll. by between, to, †with.) ME.

†5 A comparison; a parable. Only in ME.

Q 2 DYLAN THOMAS On receiving your photograph I went immediately to have my own likeness taken. 3 SHALLEY The likeness of a throned king came by. E. A. FARRMAN Spalato is putting on the likeness of a busy modern town. 4 H. JAMES She seemed to see a far-away likeness to the vaguely remembered image of her mother, touch of likeness: see CATCH verb.

liker /'li:kə/ noun. Now rare. M16.

[from LIKE verb¹ + -ER.]

A person who likes something or someone.

Likert scale /'li:kərt skeil/ noun phr. M20.

[Rensis Likert (1903-81), US psychologist.]

PSYCHOLOGY. A scale used to represent people's attitudes to a topic.

likesome /'laiks(ə)m/ adjective. obsolete exc. dial. M16.

[from LIKE verb¹ + -SOME¹.]

Agreeable, pleasant.

likeways adverb. M16-E18.

[from LIKE adjective + -WAYS.]

= LIKEWISE.

likewise /'li:kwaiz/ adverb. LME.

[Abbreviation of *In like wise* s.v. LIKE adjective etc.]

1 In the like manner, similarly. Now only in do likewise. LME.

2 Also, as well, moreover, too; in return, conversely. E16.

Q 2 F. SWINBERTON On the floor above, young Bertram Thornycroft was likewise in high glee. Sunday Express That's what Denis gives... me and, likewise, what I try to give to him.

liking /'li:kɪŋ/ noun. OE.

[from LIKE verb¹ + -ING¹.]

†1 The fact of being to one's taste or of being liked. OE-L16.

†2 Pleasure, enjoyment; an instance of this; spec. sensuality, sexual desire. ME-E18.

3 The bent of the will; what one wishes or prefers, (a person's) pleasure. Now rare exc. in to one's liking below. ME.

4 The condition of being fond of or not averse to a person or thing; favourable regard, a fondness, a taste, a fancy. (Foll. by for, to a person.) ME.

†5 Bodily condition, esp. good or healthy condition. ME-M18.

†6 An object liked, (one's) beloved. LME-M17.

Q 3 on liking, upon liking (now only in the phrase to one's liking according to one's wish, to one's liking). 4 A. Konstler Sympathy for his own body, for which usually he had no liking, played over him. E. BARBARA He's too stiff and prickly for my liking. R. WHELAN Capt and Dinah took an immediate liking to him.

likkewaan /'li:kəva:n/ noun. E20.

[Afrikaans formed as LEGUAN.]

= IGUANA 2.

Likud /'li:kud/, -'kud/ noun. L20.

[Hebrew *likud* union, (mod.) coalition.]

A nationalist coalition party in the State of Israel, formed to oppose Labour monopoly government.

likuta /'li:kuta/ noun. Pl. makuta /mɑ:k'uta/. M20.

[Kikongo.]

A former monetary unit of Zaire (formerly of the Congo) equal to one-hundredth of a zaire.

lil /li:/ noun. slang & dial. Also lilil. E19.

[Romany.]

1 A book. E19.

2 A currency note. M19.

lil /li:/ adjective. colloq. L19.

[Repr. an informal pronunc.]

Little.

lila /'li:lɑ:/ noun. E19.

[Sanskrit *līlā* play, amusement.]

In Hindu mythology and theology, the spontaneous playful activity exercised by God in all his actions, esp. in the creation of the universe; a sacred dance-drama reenacting this.

lilac /'laɪlək/ noun & adjective. Also (now dial.) laylock /'leɪlək/. E17.

[Obsolete French (now *lilas*) ult. from Persian *līlak* (whence also Turkish *leylak*) var. of *nīlak* bluish, from *nīl* blue + *dim* suffix -ak.]

▶ A noun. 1 A shrub or small tree, *Syringa vulgaris*, of the olive family, cultivated for its fragrant blossoms, which are typically of a pale pinkish-violet colour; collect. flowering sprays of this plant. Also (usu. with specifying word), (flowering sprays of) any of various other shrubs or trees belonging to this genus or thought to resemble the lilac. E17.

2 A pale pinkish-violet colour. L18.

3 The scent of lilac, esp. as used in cosmetics. L19.

1 Persian lilac the azedarac, *Melia azedarach*.

▶ B adjective. Of the colour lilac. E19.

Q Country life Full-skirted lilac dress: lilac-branded roller a roller, *Cratichneumon* (eastern and southern Africa).

■ *lilacky* adjective resembling or suggestive of lilac, of a colour resembling lilac. M19.

lilangeni /'li:lɑŋ'geɪni/ noun. Pl. emalangeni /ɪ'malɑŋ'geɪni/. L20.

[Bantu, from *li-* sing. prefix (*ema-* pl. prefix) + *langeni* member of royal family.]

The basic monetary unit of Swaziland, equal to 100 cents.

liliaceous /'li:lɪ'eɪʃəs/ adjective. M18.

[from late Latin *liliiaceus*, from *lilium* LILY: see -ACEOUS.]

Pertaining to or characteristic of lilies, lily-like; spec. (BOTANY) of or pertaining to the family Liliaceae, which includes the genus *Lilium*, the lilies.