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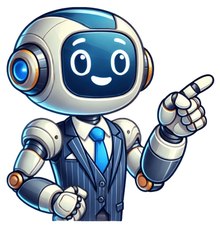

to state or set forth the meaning of (a word, phrase, etc.).They disagreed on how to define “liberal.”to explain or identify the nature or essential qualities of; describe.to define judicial functions.to fix or lay down clearly and definitely; specify distinctly.to define one's responsibilities.Synonyms: enumerate, detail, describe, name, stateto determine or fix the boundaries or extent of.to define property with stakes.to make clear the outline or form of.The roof was boldly defined against the sky.to set forth the meaning of a word, phrase, etc.; construct a definition.to state precisely the meaning of (words, terms, etc)to describe the nature, properties, or essential qualities ofto determine the boundary or extent of(often passive) to delineate the form or outline ofthe shape of the tree was clearly defined by the light behind itto fix with precision; specify“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012definable adjectivedefinability noundefinably adverbdefinement noundefiner nounmisdefine verb (used with object)nondefinability nounnondefinable adjectivenondefinably adverbnondefined adjectivenondefiner nounpredefine verb (used with object)redefine verb (used with object)self-defined adjectivesemidefined adjectiveundefinable adjectivede'finably adverbde'finable adjectivede'finer nounde,fina'bility nounOrigin of define1First recorded in 1325–75; Middle English def(f)inen, from Anglo-French, Old French definer “to put an end to,” from Latin dēfīnīre ”to limit, define,“ equivalent to dē- “from, away from, out of” + fīnīre “to end”; de-, finishOrigin of define1C14: from Old French definer to determine, from Latin dēfīnīre to set bounds to, from fīnīre to finishExamples have not been reviewed.The group defines Gen Z as people between the ages of 12 and 27.The finest rock-and-roll biographies are defined by their capacity for losing the reader inside the music."Success or failure is overwhelmingly being defined by whether the US can be dragged in," assesses Daniel Levy, President of the U.S.The move that could well become one of the defining moments of the season came at the start of lap 67 of the 70-lap race.It defined a tobacco product as something designed to be "smoked, sniffed, sucked or chewed".defilementdefinedBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrsttuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC defineTo create a definition for the meaning of a word.She did always define things simply and clearly.Submitted by MaryC on February 1, 2020 defineTo create an accurate and exact definition, meaning, term or reason.They did define the constitution easily and efficiently.Submitted by MaryC on February 20, 2020 defineTo create perfect, easy, accurate, specific, simple and just budgets, goals, law, legislation, objectives, plans, processes, procedures, rules, strategy, structures, systems, vision and treaties.The business management team had a team meeting for a complete working day to work together to create the business vision, goals, objectives, plans, processes, procedures, action.Submitted by MaryC on March 26, 2020 defineTo create specific, accurate, simple and just eligibility criteria, employees, expenditure, funding, guidelines, income, IT systems, liquidity, management, policies, resources and technology.The business management team had a team meeting for a complete working day to work together to create the business vision, goals, objectives, plans, processes, procedures, action.Submitted by MaryC on March 26, 2020 WordReference Random House Learner's Dictionary of American English © 2025de•fine /dɪˈfaɪn/USA pronunciation v. [~ + obj], -fined, -fin•ing. to set forth the meaning of:His job was to define new words that were not yet in the dictionaries. to explain or identify the nature of; describe:We had to define what our problems were before we could solve them. to determine or fix the boundaries of; specify clearly:to define responsibilities. to make clear the outline or form of; delineate:The black tree was clearly defined against a yellow background. de•fin•er, n. [countable]See -fin-. WordReference Random House Unabridged Dictionary of American English © 2025de•fine (di fīn′),USA pronunciation v. -fined, -fin•ing. v.t. to state or set forth the meaning of (a word, phrase, etc.):They disagreed on how to define "liberal.'' to explain or identify the nature or essential qualities of; describe:to define judicial functions. to fix or lay down definitely; specify distinctly:to define one's responsibilities. to determine or fix the boundaries or extent of:to define property with stakes. to make clear the outline or form of:The roof was boldly defined against the sky. v.i. to set forth the meaning of a word, phrase, etc.; construct a definition. Latin dēfīnīre to limit, define, equivalent. to dē- de- + fīnīre; see finish Anglo-French, Old French definer to put an end to Middle English def(f)inen 1325–75 de•fin′a•ble, adj. de•fin′a•bil′i•ty, n. de•fin′a•bly, adv. de•fine′ment, n. de•fin′er, n. 3. state, name, describe, detail, enumerate. Collins Concise English Dictionary © HarperCollins Publishers:: define /dɪˈfaɪn/ vb (transitive) to state precisely the meaning of (words, terms, etc) to describe the nature, properties, or essential qualities of to determine the boundary or extent of (often passive) to delineate the form or outline of: the shape of the tree was clearly defined by the light behind it to fix with precision; specifyEtymology: 14th Century: from Old French definer to determine, from Latin dēfīnīre to set bounds to, from fīnīre to finishde'finable adj de'finer n