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Dictionary

cover

verb | cov·er | \ˈkə-vər\

SAVE POPULARITY

  

: to put something over, on top of, or in front of (something else) especially in order to protect, hide, or close it

: to be spread over or on top of (something)

: to be over much or all of the surface of (something)

How "Spam" became something on your phone and not on your plate. >

cov·ered cov·er·ing  | \ˈkəv-riŋ, ˈkə-və-ɪ\

Full Definition of COVER

transitive verb

- a** : to guard from attack

b (1) : to have within the range of one's guns : **COMMAND** (2) : to hold within range of an aimed firearm

c (1) : to afford protection or security to : **INSURE** (2) : to afford protection against or compensation for <a policy *covering* loss by fire>

d (1) : to guard (an opponent) in order to obstruct a play <a linebacker assigned to *cover* the tight end> (2) : to be in position to receive a throw to (a base in baseball) <the shortstop was *covering* second>

e (1) : to make provision for (a demand or charge) by means of a reserve or deposit <your balance is insufficient to *cover* the check> (2) : to maintain a check on especially by patrolling (3) : to protect by contrivance or expedient
- a** : to hide from sight or knowledge : **CONCEAL** <*cover* up a scandal>

b : to lie over : **ENVELOP** <a blanket *covering* her legs>
- : to lay or spread something over : **OVERLAY** <*cover* the seed bed with straw>
- a** : to spread over <snow *covered* the hills>

b : to appear here and there on the surface of <a region *covered* with lakes>

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henotheism

worship of 1 god without denying others

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Words at Play



What Is a "Kinesophobe" So Afraid Of?



12 Oversized Words

- 5** : to place or set a cover or **covering** over <cover the pot>
- 6 a** : to copulate with (a female animal) <a horse *covers* a mare>
- b** : to sit on and incubate (eggs)
- 7** : to invest with a large or excessive amount of something <*covered* herself with glory>
- 8** : to play a higher-ranking card on (a previously played card)
- 9** : to have sufficient scope to include or take into account <an examination *covering* a full year's work>
- 10** : to deal with : **TREAT** <material *covered* in the first chapter>
- 11 a** : to have as one's territory or field of activity <one sales rep *covers* the whole state>
- b** : to report news about <reporters *covering* the campaign>
- 12** : to pass over : **TRAVERSE** <the hikers *covered* 12 miles that day>
- 13** : to defray the cost of <*cover* expenses>
- 14** : to place one's stake in equal jeopardy with in a bet
- 15** : to buy securities or commodities for delivery against (an earlier short sale)
- 16** : to record or perform a cover of (a song)

intransitive verb

- 1** : to conceal something illicit, blameworthy, or embarrassing from notice —usually used with *up*
- 2** : to act as a substitute or replacement during an absence
- **cov·er·able**  | \ˈkəv-rə-bəl, ˈkə-və-l̩ | *adjective*
- **co·ver·er**  | ˈkə-vər-ər | *noun*
- **cover one's tracks**
: to conceal traces in order to elude pursuers or escape detection
- **cover the ground** or **cover ground**
: to deal with a subject or assignment in a particular manner <the new book *covers* a lot of *ground*>

See [cover](#) defined for English-language learners

See [cover](#) defined for kids

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Examples of COVER

- The gardener *covered* the soil with mulch.
- The furniture had been *covered* in a protective cloth.
- We *covered* the stains on the wall with a fresh coat of paint.
- You should *cover* your mouth when you cough.
- She *covered* her head with a scarf.
- tables *covered* with white linen
- Lakes *cover* much of the state.
- The hikers *covered* long distances every day.

Word Games

Take a 3-minute break and test your skills!

Name That Thing



True or False?



Spell It



Trend Watch



Fluctuat Nec Mergitur

The Paris city motto becomes an anti-terrorist statement ...

The bird may *cover* thousands of miles during its migration.

Ask The Editor Videos



Lay vs. Lie

'Try and' vs. 'Try to'



Origin of COVER

Middle English, from Anglo-French *coverir*, *covrir*, from Latin *cooperire*, from *co-* + *operire* to close, cover

First Known Use: 13th century

Related to COVER

Synonyms

fill in, pinch-hit, stand in, step in, sub, substitute, take over

Antonyms

bare, disclose, display, divulge, expose, reveal, show, uncloak, uncover, unmask, unveil

[\[+\] more](#)

²cover

noun, often attributive

: something that is put around or on top of another thing especially to protect, hide, or close it

: a blanket or sheet on a bed

: the outer part of a book or magazine

Full Definition of COVER

1 : something that protects, shelters, or guards: as

a : natural shelter for an animal; *also* : the factors that provide such shelter

b (1) : a position or situation affording protection from enemy fire (2) : the protection offered by airplanes in tactical support of a military operation

c *British* : [COVERAGE](#) 1a, b, 2a

2 : something that is placed over or about another thing:

a : [LID](#), [TOP](#)

b : a binding or case for a book or the analogous part of a magazine; *also* : the front or back of such a binding

c : an overlay or outer layer especially for protection <a mattress *cover*>

d : a tablecloth and the other table accessories

e : [COVER CHARGE](#)

f : [ROOF](#)

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g : a cloth used on a bed for warmth or for decoration —usually used in plural <lying under the covers>

h : something (as vegetation or snow) that **covers** the ground

i : the extent to which clouds obscure the sky

3 a : something that conceals or obscures <under cover of darkness>

b : a masking device : **PRETEXT** <the project was a *cover* for intelligence operations>

4 : an envelope or wrapper for mail

5 : one who substitutes for another during an absence

6 : a recording or performance of a song previously recorded by another performer

— **cov·er·less**  | \ˈkə-vər-ləs\ | *adjective*

— **under cover**

1 : in an envelope or wrapper

2 : under concealment : in secret

See **cover** defined for English-language learners 

Examples of COVER

She placed a *cover* over the pan so that the oil wouldn't spatter.

I put a *cover* on the sofa to protect it.

I lifted the *cover* of the box and peaked inside.

There's a picture of the author on the book's back *cover*.

The singer is posing in jeans and cowboy boots on the album *cover*.

First Known Use of COVER

14th century

Related to COVER

Synonyms

[cap](#), [lid](#), [top](#)

[\[+\] more](#)

Other Aeronautics/Aerospace Terms

[airway](#), [apron](#), [corridor](#), [dirigible](#), [fishtail](#), [flat-hat](#), [vector](#)

Rhymes with COVER

[hover](#), [shover](#)

COVER Defined for Kids

¹ **cover** 

verb | cov·er | \ˈkə-vər\

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cov·ered cov·er·ing

Definition of COVER for Kids

- 1 : to place or spread something over <Cover the pot.> <She covered her head with a cloth and said a special prayer ... — Lois Lowry, *Number the Stars*>
- 2 : to be spread with or extend over much or all of the surface of <His face is covered with freckles.>
- 3 : to form a covering over <Snow covered the ground.>
- 4 : to pass over or through <The bikers covered 50 miles a day.>
- 5 : to provide protection to or against <Soldiers covered the landing with artillery.>
- 6 : to maintain a check on by patrolling <Police cover the highways.>
- 7 : to hide from sight or knowledge <I covered my embarrassment.>
- 8 : to deal with as a subject <The test will cover everything we've studied so far.>
- 9 : to have as a field of activity or interest <Our newspaper employs a reporter covering the courthouse.>
- 10 : to provide insurance for

²cover 

noun

Definition of COVER for Kids

- 1 : something that protects, shelters, or hides
- 2 : a covering (as a blanket) used on a bed
- 3 : a binding or a protecting case <a book cover>
- 4 : something that is placed over or about another thing : [LID](#), [TOP](#) <a mattress cover> <the cover of a box>

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Learn More About COVER

-  Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for "cover"](#)
-  Spanish Central: [Spanish translation of "cover"](#)
-  Nglish: [Translation of "cover" for Spanish speakers](#)
-  Britannica English: [Translation of "cover" for Arabic speakers](#)

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- cover**
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- cover-all
- cover charge
- cover crop

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