

**define** [dɪˈfaɪn] *v*

1. определять, давать (точное) определение  
to define a term [a concept] - определить термин [понятие]
2. 1) характеризовать; определять, устанавливать  
to define one's position - определить /высказать/ своё отношение  
to define a problem - формулировать задачу  
to define smb.'s duties - очертить /установить/ круг чьих-л. обязанностей  
the powers of a judge are defined by law - обязанности /полномочия/ судьи устанавливаются /определяются/ законом
- 2) характеризовать; составлять отличительное свойство  
the properties that define this species are ... - отличительными особенностями этого (биологического) вида являются ...
3. очерчивать, ограничивать, устанавливать границы  
to define the boundary between two countries - установить границу между двумя странами  
three joined buildings defined a courtyard - три соединённых друг с другом здания образовывали внутренний двор
4. выделять, делать рельефным  
the tree was defined against the sky - дерево вырисовывалось на фоне неба
5. задавать (величину)

**define**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**de·fine** **AW** [define defines defined defining] **BrE** [dɪˈfaɪn] <sup>u</sup> **NAmE** [dɪˈfaɪn]  
<sup>u</sup> **verb**

1. to say or explain what the meaning of a word or phrase is
  - ~ **sth** The term 'mental illness' is difficult to define.
  - ~ **sth as sth** Life imprisonment is defined as 60 years under state law.
2. to describe or show sth accurately
  - ~ **sth** We need to define the task ahead very clearly.
  - The difficulty of a problem was **defined in terms of** how long it took to complete.
  - ~ **what, how, etc...** It is difficult to define what makes him so popular.
3. ~ **sth** to show clearly a line, shape or edge
  - The mountain was **sharply defined** against the sky.

Derived Word ↑ **definable**

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	define
	BrE /dɪˈfaɪn/
	NAmE /dɪˈfaɪn/
he / she / it	defines
	BrE /dɪˈfaɪnz/
	NAmE /dɪˈfaɪnz/
past simple, past participle	defined
	BrE /dɪˈfaɪnd/
	NAmE /dɪˈfaɪnd/
-ing form	defining
	BrE /dɪˈfaɪnɪŋ/
	NAmE /dɪˈfaɪnɪŋ/

Word Origin:

late Middle English (also in the sense 'bring to an end'): from Old French **definir**, from a variant of Latin **definire**, from **de-** (expressing completion) + **finire** 'finish' (from **finis** 'end').

Thesaurus:

**define** *verb* **T**

- The term 'mental illness' is difficult to define.
- explain** • **interpret** • **spell sth out** • **formal clarify** • **expound** •  
define/explain/spell out/clarify **how/what...**  
define/explain/clarify the **position/role/nature/meaning** of sth  
**clearly** define/explain/spell out/expound sth

Language Bank:

**define**

*Defining terms*

**It is important to clarify what is meant by** = climate change.  
 = Climate change **can** = / **may be defined as** = 'the long-term fluctuations in temperature, precipitation, wind and other aspects of the earth's climate'.  
**A generally accepted definition of** = global warming **is** = the gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere due to the greenhouse effect.  
 = The greenhouse effect **is defined** = by the author **as** = the process by which heat from the sun is trapped in the earth's atmosphere, causing the temperature of the earth to rise.  
 = The author **uses the term** = climate change **to refer to** = any significant change in measures of climate lasting for an extended period.  
**The term** = 'carbon footprint' **refers to** = the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of

an individual or organization.

- Scientists suggest that increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will result in an increase in global temperatures, and **the term** ▪ 'global warming' **is used** ▪ to describe this phenomenon.

Language Bank at [↑first](#)

### Example Bank:

- Social values are not easy to define.
- There may be problems if responsibilities are not adequately defined.
- This type of lymphoma is defined by the presence of specific malignant cells.
- Thread count is defined as the number of threads in one square inch of fabric.
- We have chosen to define the scope of our study quite broadly.
- the culturally defined role of women

## define

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

**de** **fine** **S2 W2 AC** /dɪ'faɪn/ *BrE* <sup>ˈ</sup> *AmE* <sup>ˈ</sup> *verb* [transitive]

[Word Family: *verb*: ↑define; *noun*: ↑definition; *adverb*: ↑definitely ≠ ↑indefinitely; *adjective*: ↑definite ≠ ↑indefinite]

[Date: 1300-1400; Language: Old French; Origin: definer, from Latin definire, from finire 'to limit, end']

**1. to describe something correctly and thoroughly, and to say what standards, limits, qualities etc it has that make it different from other things:**

- the ability to define clients' needs
- The duties of the post are difficult to define.

**clearly/well defined**

- The tasks will be clearly defined by the tutor.

**define something as something**

- 70% of the workers can be defined as low-paid.

**2. to explain exactly the meaning of a particular word or idea ⇒ definition:**

- I'll now try to define the term 'popular culture'.

**define something as something**

- A budget is defined as 'a plan of action expressed in money terms'.
- Define precisely what you mean by 'crime'.

**3. to show the edge or shape of something clearly ⇒ definition:**

- The bird has sharply defined black and rust markings.

**—definable** *adjective*

## define

Freakuency Pack

12500 **1046**<sup>MCW</sup>

15000 **774**<sup>COCA</sup>

RANGE: **2k** DEFINE 60203

define 10695

definable 202

indefinable 168

indefinably 8

undefinable 50

defined 17885

defines 3691

defining 5661

definition 14149

definitions 4019

definitional 186

redefine 1038

redefined 804

redefines 147

redefining 723

redefinition 419

redefinitions 24

undefined 334

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

5717 **5252**<sup>7251</sup> *vvi*

2956 **9237**<sup>3444</sup> *vv0*