

[ˈʃaɪə] *n*1. *узм.*

1) графство

knight of the shire - *узм.* представитель графства в парламенте

2) (the Shires) центральные графства Англии

2. *сокр.* *от* shire horse

3. (-shire[-ʃaɪə]) как компонент сложных слов в названиях графств и т. п.:

Hampshire - Гемпшир

Yorkshire - Йоркшир

shire

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

shire [shire shires] *BrE* [ˈʃaɪə(r)] [ⓘ] *NAme* [ˈʃaɪə] [ⓘ] or, in compounds, [-ʃə(r)][ⓘ] *NAme* [-ʃə] [ⓘ] noun (BrE)1. **countable** (old use) a county (now used in the names of some counties in Britain, for example Hampshire, Yorkshire)2. **the Shires**, (also **the Shire Counties**) plural counties in central England that are in country areas

• Figures showed that crime was rising more quickly in the Shire Counties and rural areas than in the major cities.

Word Origin:

Old English scīr ‘care, official charge, county’, of Germanic origin.

Culture:**counties**

Britain is divided into small administrative regions, many of which are called **counties**. Three regions, the counties of ↑**Essex** and ↑**Kent** and the region of ↑**Sussex** (which includes the counties of East and West Sussex), have the same names and cover almost the same areas as three of the former ↑**Anglo-Saxon kingdoms**. Other counties, e.g. ↑**Dorset**, are probably based on areas where particular tribes once lived.

Counties were previously called **shires**. The original shires were the counties of the English ↑**Midlands** and the word became part of their name, e.g. ↑**Northamptonshire**. Administrative and legal affairs were dealt with by shire courts **presided** over by shire-reeves, later called **sheriffs**. Many shires were divided into smaller districts called **hundreds**. The large former county of ↑**Yorkshire** was until 1974 divided into **ridings**, North Riding, East Riding and West Riding, named after the three divisions of the 9th century ↑**Viking** kingdom of ↑**York**.

The families of people who own land in the **shire counties**, are sometimes described as **county**, as in **a county family** and **She's very county**, or are said to belong to the **county set**. Such people have a high social status and are thought to have a way of life that is typical of the ↑**upper class**.

Counties were for a long time the basis for ↑**local government**. Since 1972 there have been many changes to their boundaries and names, and to the structure of local government. Most recently, **unitary authorities** have been created throughout Wales and in many places in England, and a similar system of ↑**council areas** introduced in Scotland. The main difference is that counties have two **tiers** (= levels) of local government, at county and at district level, and unitary authorities and council areas have only one level. Some towns that were previously part of counties, e.g. ↑**Southampton**, are now separate unitary authorities. Many people are confused by all the changes and continue to use the old county names. People do not like to have changes forced upon them, and in 1974 local people were unhappy when the small county of ↑**Rutland** was **abolished** and became part of ↑**Leicestershire**. In 1996, when they had the opportunity to change, the people of Rutland chose to have their own separate unitary authority. In the US most states are divided into counties, which are the largest units of local government. There are over 3 000 counties in the US; Delaware has just three, while Texas has 254. ↑**Connecticut** and ↑**Rhode Island** have none. In ↑**Louisiana**, similar units of local government are called **parishes**, and in ↑**Alaska** they are called **boroughs**. In some urban areas, such as ↑**Philadelphia** and ↑**Boston**, the city takes up almost the entire county.

Culture:

The name **the Shires** refers to the counties which have names ending in **-shire** (= an old word for county). Originally they were called this by people from southern counties which did not have **-shire** in their names. In modern times **the Shires** refer mainly to those counties that were famous for ↑**hunting**, especially ↑**Northamptonshire** and ↑**Leicestershire**, where people had been using dogs to hunt **foxes** since the 17th century. Many British people think of the Shires as country areas where people have old-fashioned attitudes

• For decades the Tories dominated in the shires.

shire

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

shire /ʃaɪə \$ ʃaɪr/ *BrE* [ⓘ] *AmE* [ⓘ] noun [countable]1. **the shires** (also **the shire counties**) **COUNTIES** in England that mostly consist of country areas2. *British English old use* a ↑county**shire**

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