

# elementary

[,elɪ'ment(ə)rɪ] *a*

1. 1) элементарный, простой  
 elementary colours - основные цвета  
 this is elementary - это элементарно/крайне просто/
- 2) простейший; первичный  
 elementary cell - первичная /зародышевая/ клетка
2. первоначальный, начальный  
 elementary knowledge - начатки знаний  
 elementary school - начальная школа  
 elementary teachers - *разг.* учителя начальной школы  
 elementary treatise - труд, излагающий основы (*науки*)
3. стихийный, относящийся к стихиям
4. *хим.* неразложимый

## elementary

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

elem-en-tary [elementary elementaries] *BrE* [,elɪ'mentri] <sup>ˈ</sup> *NAmE* [,elɪ'mentri]

*a* adjective

1. in or connected with the first stages of a course of study
  - an elementary English course
  - a book for elementary students
  - at an elementary level

**compare** ↑primary, ↑secondary

2. of the most basic kind
  - the elementary laws of economics
  - an elementary mistake

3. very simple and easy

- elementary questions

### Word Origin:

late Middle English (in the sense 'composed of the four elements, earth, air, fire, and water'): from Latin *elementarius*, from *elementum* 'principle', translating Greek *stoikheion* 'step, component part'. Current senses date from the mid 16th cent.

### Example Bank:

- I made some rather elementary mistakes.
- How could you make such an elementary mistake?
- I'm taking classes in elementary Italian.
- It's an elementary law of economics: the scarcer the commodity, the higher the price.

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Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

el e men ta ry /,elə'mentəri-, ,elɪ'mentəri-/ *BrE* <sup>ˈ</sup> *AmE* <sup>ˈ</sup> adjective

1. simple or basic:
  - the elementary principles of justice and democracy
  - You've made a very elementary mistake.
2. [only before noun] concerning the first and easiest part of a subject ⇒ **intermediate**, **advanced**:
  - I'm only familiar with the subject at an elementary level.
  - I know a little elementary science.
3. [only before noun] *American English* relating to elementary school **SYN** *primary* *British English*:  
 elementary education
4. **Elementary, my dear Watson.** people sometimes use this expression humorously to say how easy something is to solve. Some people think that the phrase comes from the Sherlock Holmes stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Holmes says this to his friend Watson when explaining how easy it is to understand something about a crime. In fact, the phrase does not appear in the books.

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