

**spy**

**1. [spaɪ] n**

- 1) шпион, тайный агент, разведчик  
 spy ring - шпионская организация /сеть/  
 women spies - шпионки
- 2) шпик, соглядатай  
 a police spy - агент полиции; провокатор  
 he refused to be a spy on her conduct - он отказался подсматривать за ней
- 3) **воен.** лазутчик

**2. [spaɪ] v**

- 1. заниматься шпионажем, добывать разведывательные данные
- 2. 1) (**обыкн.** on) следить, шпионить (*за кем-л.*)  
 to spy upon smb. /upon smb.'s movements/ - следить /установить слежку/ за кем-л.
- 2) подсматривать (*за кем-л.*); высматривать (*что-л.*)
- 3) выслеживать, разнюхивать (**мж.** spy out)  
 to spy into smb.'s secret - проникнуть в чью-л. тайну  
 we must spy out disagreements as soon as they occur - мы должны расследовать корни разногласий, как только они возникают
- 3. рассматривать, исследовать, осматривать (**мж.** spy out)  
 to spy (out) the country [the ground] - тщательно исследовать местность [почву]
- 4. подмечать, замечать  
 she is quick at spying her neighbours' faults - она тонко подмечает недостатки окружающих
- 5. **асгр.** наблюдать в телескоп  
 ◇ to spy out the land - а) **библ.** высмотреть землю; б) оценивать обстановку

**spy**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**spy [spy spies spied spying] noun, verb BrE [spaɪ] <sup>ˈ</sup> NAmE [spaɪ] <sup>ˈ</sup>**

**noun (pl. spies)**

a person who tries to get secret information about another country, organization or person, especially sb who is employed by a government or the police

- He was denounced as a foreign spy.
- a police spy
- a **spy plane /satellite** (= used to watch the activities of the enemy)
- Video spy cameras are being used in public places.

Word Origin:

Middle English: shortening of Old French **espie 'espying'**, **espier 'espy'**, of Germanic origin, from an Indo-European root shared by Latin **specere 'behold, look'**.

Example Bank:

- Counter-intelligence officers uncovered a spy ring involving twenty agents.
- He denied acting as an enemy spy.
- He was a spy for the government
- Soviet spies who had infiltrated the American government
- the director of a top American spy agency
- He became a government spy during the war.
- He worked as a British spy in Russia.

Idiom: ↑spy out the land

Derived ↑spy on somebody ▪ ↑spy something out

**verb (spies, spy-ing, spied, spied)**

- 1. **intransitive** to collect secret information about another country, organization or person  
 • He spied for his government for more than ten years.
- 2. **transitive ~ sb/sth** (**literary or formal**) to suddenly see or notice sb/sth  
 • In the distance we spied the Pacific for the first time.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	spy
	BrE /spaɪ/
	NAmE /spaɪ/
he / she / it	spies
	BrE /spaɪz/
	NAmE /spaɪz/
past simple, past participle	spied
	BrE /spaɪd/
	NAmE /spaɪd/
-ing form	spying
	BrE /spaɪɪŋ/
	NAmE /spaɪɪŋ/

Word Origin:

## spy

### I. **spy**<sup>1</sup> /spaɪ/ *BrE* <sup>ˈ</sup> *AmE* <sup>ˈ</sup> *noun* (plural **spies**) [countable]

someone whose job is to find out secret information about another country, organization, or group **SYN** **secret agent**:

She worked as a spy for the American government.

**spy ring/network** (=an organized group of spies)

**spy plane/satellite**

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### COLLOCATIONS

#### ■ verbs

▪ **work as a spy** He died while working as a government spy.

▪ **be arrested/imprisoned/shot etc as a spy** Anyone caught working with the Resistance was shot as a spy.

#### ■ ADJECTIVES/NOUN + spy

▪ **a British/American etc spy** He was arrested on suspicion of being an American spy.

▪ **a foreign spy** The activities of foreign spies have increased.

▪ **an enemy spy** He gave information to enemy spies.

▪ **a government spy** They thought I was a government spy.

#### ■ spy + NOUN

▪ **a spy story/novel/movie etc** John Le Carré is famous for writing spy stories. | one of the most exciting spy movies of all time

▪ **a spy ring** (also **a network of spies**) (=a group of spies) He was well informed through his network of spies.

▪ **a spy satellite/plane** (=used for spying) The Americans have denied using spy satellites to spy on China. | The photographs were taken by spy planes.

▪ **a spy chief** (also **a spymaster**) Britain's first woman spy chief | John Le Carre's fictional spy master George Smiley

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### THESAURUS

▪ **spy** someone whose job is to find out secret information about another country: Stalin controlled a network of spies. | The film is basically a spy story.

▪ **agent/secret agent** someone who works for a government or police department in order to get secret information about another country or organization: a secret agent working for MI5 | He is the FBI's best undercover agent (=one who works secretly and pretends to be someone else).

▪ **double agent** someone who finds out an enemy country's secrets for their own country but who also gives secrets to the enemy: a former CIA double agent who also worked for the KGB

▪ **mole** someone who works for an organization while secretly giving information to its enemies: A mole in the government was leaking information to the press.

▪ **informer** someone who secretly tells the police about criminal activities, especially for money: Acting on information from an informer, the police raided the house.

▪ **espionage** the work that spies do: He is serving a 20-year prison sentence for espionage.

### II. **spy**<sup>2</sup> *BrE* <sup>ˈ</sup> *AmE* <sup>ˈ</sup> *verb* (past tense and past participle **spied**, present participle **spying**, third person singular **spies**)

[Date: 1200-1300; Language: Old French; Origin: *espier*]

1. [**intransitive**] to secretly collect information about an enemy country or an organization you are competing against

**spy on**

He was charged with spying on British military bases.

**spy for**

He confessed to spying for North Korea.

2. [**transitive**] *literary* to suddenly see someone or something, especially after searching for them **SYN** **spot**

Ellen suddenly spied her friend in the crowd.

—**spying** *noun* [uncountable]

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### THESAURUS

#### ■ work that a spy does

▪ **spying** the action of secretly collecting information about a person, country, or organization: Several embassy officials had been arrested for spying.

▪ **espionage** spying. **Espionage** is more formal than **spying**: Zakharov was charged with espionage. | The company carried out a campaign of industrial espionage against its main rival. | Double agents are quite commonplace in the world of espionage.

▪ **surveillance** activity in which the police, army, etc watch a person or place carefully because they may be connected with criminal activities: 24-hour surveillance of the building | The police have had him under surveillance (=have been watching him) for months.

▪ **covert operations** secret military activities against an enemy: These planes are used by British Intelligence for covert operations.

**spy on somebody** *phrasal verb*

to watch someone secretly in order to find out what they are doing:

She sent you to spy on me, didn't she?

**spy something ↔ out** *phrasal verb*

1. to secretly find out information about something

2. **spy out the land** *British English* to secretly find out more information about a situation before deciding what to do

**spy**12500 **6390**<sup>MCW</sup>15000 **2958**<sup>COCA</sup>RANGE: **5k** **SPY** 8761

spy 4617

spies 1709

spied 908

spying 1490

counterspy 37

counterspies 0

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

2158 **8622**<sup>3788</sup> *nn1*534 **28473**<sup>608</sup> *vvi*194 **50204**<sup>221</sup> *vv0*