

comprehend

[,kɒmpriˈhend] v

1. понимать, уразуметь; постигнуть
to comprehend a question [a purpose] - понимать вопрос [цель]
man does not yet comprehend the universe - человек ещё не постиг вселенную
2. **книжн.** включать, содержать в себе, охватывать
establishments comprehended in the firm - предприятия, входящие в фирму
the report of the accident comprehended all the facts - в протокол о несчастном случае были включены все факты

comprehend

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

com-pre-hend [comprehend comprehends comprehended comprehending]

BrE [ˌkɒmpriˈhend] ¹ NAmE [ˌkɑːmprɪˈhɛnd] **verb intransitive, transitive**

(often used in negative sentences) (formal) to understand sth fully

- He stood staring at the dead body, unable to comprehend.
- ~ **sth** The infinite distances of space are too great for the human mind to comprehend.
- ~ **how/why, etc...** She could not comprehend how someone would risk people's lives in that way.
- ~ **that...** He simply could not comprehend that she could be guilty.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	comprehend
	BrE / ˌkɒmpriˈhend/
	NAmE / ˌkɑːmprɪˈhænd/
he / she / it	comprehends
	BrE / ˌkɒmpriˈhends/
	NAmE / ˌkɑːmprɪˈhends/
past simple, past participle	comprehended
	BrE / ˌkɒmpriˈhended/
	NAmE / ˌkɑːmprɪˈhændəd/
-ing form	comprehending
	BrE / ˌkɒmpriˈhendɪŋ/
	NAmE / ˌkɑːmprɪˈhendɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old French **comprehender**, or Latin **comprehendere**, from **com-** 'together' + **prehendere** 'grasp'.

Synonyms:

understand

see • get • follow • grasp • comprehend

These words all mean to know or realize sth, for example why sth happens, how sth works or what sth means.

understand • to know or realize the meaning of words, a language, what sb says, etc; to know or realize how or why sth happens, how it works or why it is important: ▫ I don't understand the instructions. ▫ Doctors still don't understand much about the disease.

see • to understand what is happening, what sb is saying, how sth works or how important sth is: ▫ 'It opens like this.' 'Oh, I see.' ▫ Oh yes, I see what you mean.

get • (informal) to understand a joke, what sb is trying to tell you, or a situation that they are trying to describe: ▫ She didn't get the joke. ▫ I don't get you.

follow • to understand an explanation, a story or the meaning of sth: ▫ Sorry—I don't quite follow. ▫ The plot is almost impossible to follow.

grasp • to come to understand a fact, an idea or how to do sth: ▫ They failed to grasp the importance of his words.

understand or grasp?

You can use **understand** or **grasp** for the action of realizing the meaning or importance of sth for the first time: ▫ It's a difficult concept for children to understand/grasp. Only **understand** can be used to talk about languages, words or writing: I don't grasp French/the instructions.

comprehend • (often used in negative statements) (formal) to understand a fact, idea or reason: ▫ The concept of infinity is almost impossible for the human mind to comprehend.

to understand/see/get/follow/grasp/comprehend **what/why/how...**

to understand/see/grasp/comprehend **that...**

to understand/see/get/grasp **the point/idea** (of sth)

to be **easy/difficult/hard** to understand/see/follow/grasp/comprehend

to **fully** understand/see/grasp/comprehend sth

Example Bank:

- She could barely comprehend what was happening to her.
- She failed to comprehend the seriousness of the situation.
- He stood staring at the body, unable to comprehend.
- She could not comprehend how anyone could endanger human life in that way.
- The concept of infinity is almost impossible for the human mind to comprehend.

comprehend

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

com-pre-hend /ˌkɒmpriˈhend \$ ˌkɑːmprɪˈhɛnd/ BrE ¹ AmE ¹ **verb** [I, T not in progressive]

[Date: 1300-1400; Language: Latin; Origin: comprehendere 'to take hold of completely', from com- (⇒ COM-) + prehendere (,

[prehensile]

to understand something that is complicated or difficult **SYN understand, grasp** ⇒ **comprehension** :

▪ She cannot comprehend the extent of the disaster.

▪ I did not fully comprehend what had happened.

comprehend what/how/why etc

▪ It may be hard to comprehend how much this gift means for my country.

comprehend that

▪ Finally, she comprehended that he wanted his pay.

REGISTER

In everyday English, people usually say **understand** rather than **comprehend** :

▪ I could understand most of what she was saying.

• • •

THESAURUS

▪ **understand** to know the meaning of something, or the reasons for something: I understand what you're saying. | Doctors are beginning to understand what causes the disease.

▪ **see especially spoken** to understand something, especially the truth about a situation or the reasons for something: I can see why you don't like him. | Do you see what I mean? | Oh, I see!

▪ **get informal** to understand a joke, what someone says, the reasons why something is true etc: She didn't seem to get the joke. | Do you get me? | He explained the math homework twice, but I still don't get it. | I still don't get why she left.

▪ **comprehend formal** to understand something, or understand why something is important: The dream was easy to describe, but difficult to comprehend. | They had failed to comprehend the significance of the problem.

▪ **know what somebody means spoken** to understand what someone is telling you, or what a situation is like, especially because you have some experience or knowledge about this: 'It can be really hard to give up smoking.' 'I know exactly what you mean.' | We now know what the scientists meant when they warned about global warming.

▪ **follow** to understand something such as an explanation or story as you hear it, read it etc: The plot is hard to follow. | His instructions were easy to follow.

comprehend

Freakuency Pack

12500 **8884**^{MCW}

15000 **3663**^{COCA}

RANGE: **7k** **COMPREHEND** 5876

comprehend 2248

comprehends 84

comprehended 250

comprehending 363

noncomprehending 0

uncomprehending 224

uncomprehendingly 45

comprehension 2658

comprehensions 4

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

1820 **13196**²⁰⁶⁵ **vvi**

178 **55509**¹⁸³ **vv0**