

< predator

x



Dictionary

Thesaurus

predator noun

pred·a·tor 'pre-də-tər - ,tôr

Synonyms of *predator* >

- 1** : an organism that primarily obtains food by the killing and consuming of other organisms : an organism that lives by [predation](#)

The threadworm is a tiny nematode; its manifold kin include human parasites such as the hookworm, although the lab species is no parasite but an abundant, free-living *predator* of soil bacteria.

— Eleanor E. MacCoby

In a new environment, with no *predators*, an exotic plant can theoretically run riot.

especially : an animal that preys on other animals

With no large *predators* around, the koala rarely meets a violent end.

— Denis Gray

The picture that emerges from my research in a near-wilderness environment is that of the red fox as a specialized *predator* of small prey (insects, songbirds, small rodents, rabbits), with highly evolved and intriguing adaptations for this type of hunting ...

— J. David Henry

Some spiders and caterpillars mimic bird droppings—a deterring avian *predators*.

— James Martin



- 2** : one who injures or exploits others for personal gain or profit

Businessmen, he believed, were often *predators* ...

— Nathan Glick

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[Relevance](#)

vampire

shark

vulture

wolf

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predators like bears and wolves

The population of rabbits is controlled by natural **predators**.

a corporate **predator** acquiring business rivals

Recent Examples on the Web

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Scarecrows, reflective streamers, **predator** decoys, strobe balloons with eye patterns all serve this function.

— Gemma Johnstone, *The Spruce*, 24 May 2026

Cubs who become lost from their mothers can fall victim to vehicle collisions or



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portrayed him as a child **predator**.

– Susan Shelley, *Oc Register*, 23 May 2026

Reindeer may even use it to track **predators** across Arctic snow.

– Scott Travers, *Forbes.com*, 23 May 2026

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First Known Use

1581, in the meaning defined at [sense 2](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *predator* was in 1581

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[sexual predator](#)



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coeditor

See All Rhymes for *predator*

predative

predator

predatorial

See All Nearby Words

Style

MLA

"Predator." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster. www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/predator. Accessed [date].

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• an animal that obtains food mostly by killing and eating other animals

English: [Translation of predator for Spanish Speakers](#)

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Blossom

Pick the best words!

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