

Merriam-Webster Logo

exempt



exempt

1 of 3

adjective

x·empt

[Synonyms of exempt](#)

1

: free or released from some liability or requirement to which others are subject

was exempt from jury duty

the estate was exempt from taxes

2

obsolete : set apart

exempt

2 of 3

verb

exempted; exempting; exempts

transitive verb

: to release or deliver from some liability or requirement to which others are subject

exempted from military service

exempt

3 of 3

noun

: one exempted or freed from duty

Examples of *exempt* in a Sentence

Recent Examples on the Web

Examples are automatically compiled from online sources to show current usage. [Read More](#)

Adjective

Apple looks slightly more attractive now that smartphones have been **exempt** from President Donald Trump's sweeping U.S. tariffs, according to KeyBanc Capital Markets.

 Pia Singh, *CNBC*, 14 Apr. 2025

Although the Trump administration announced late Friday that smartphones, computers and other electronic parts will be **exempt** from tariffs, at least temporarily.

 *ABC News*, 13 Apr. 2025

Verb

President Donald Trump, for his part, wants the tax reform legislation Congress is working on to **exempt** all Social Security benefit payments from federal income taxes.

 Dennis W. Jansen, *The Conversation*, 14 Apr. 2025

That's unlikely, experts say Gavin Newsom wants nations to **exempt** California goods from tariffs.

 Nollyanne Delacruz, *Mercury News*, 13 Apr. 2025

Noun

One additional player may be added to each draw as a special **exempt**.

 Adam Baum, *The Enquirer*, 20 July 2022

The electric-car maker clashed with Fremont officials last month over whether its factory was an essential business **exempt** from shutdown orders.

 *BostonGlobe.com*, 26 Apr. 2020

[See All Example Sentences for *exempt*](#)

Word History

Etymology

Adjective

Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Latin *exemptus*, past participle of *eximere* to take out — more at [EXAMPLE](#)

First Known Use

Adjective

14th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 2](#)

Verb

15th century, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Noun

1532, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *exempt* was in the 14th century

[See more words from the same century](#)

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[tax-exempt](#)

Rhymes for *exempt*

[attempt](#)

[contempt](#)

[preempt](#)

[unkempt](#)

[empt](#)

[tempt](#)

[nonexempt](#)

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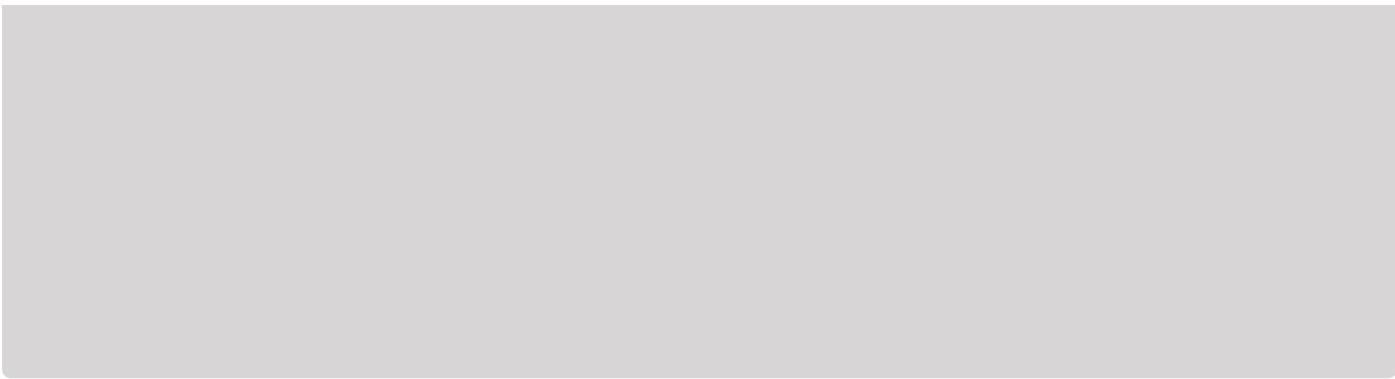
exempt

[exempt carrier](#)

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The Words of the Week - 4/10/20

Some of the words that defined the week of April 10, 2020

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Kids Definition

exempt

1 of 2 **adjective**

ex·empt 

: free or released from some requirement that others must meet or deal with

exempt

2 of 2 **verb**

: to make exempt

Legal Definition

exempt

1 of 2 **adjective**

ex·empt

: free or released from some obligation or duty to which others are subject : not subject or liable

certain properties are declared to be *exempt* and cannot be taken by a person's creditors

 J. H. Williamson

exempt

2 of 2 **transitive verb**

: to release or exclude from some liability (as in taxation), obligation, or duty to which others are subject

exempts the income of a spendthrift trust

 W. M. McGovern, Jr. *et al.*

More from Merriam-Webster on *exempt*

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

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