

witness

1. ['wɪtnɪs] *n*
- 1) свидетель, очевидец
the witnesses of the accident - очевидцы аварии
 - 2) свидетель (*особ. в суде*)
to call as a witness - вызывать в качестве свидетеля
to call to witness - призывать в свидетели
God is my witness that - видит бог, что ...
swearing of a witness - приведение свидетеля к присяге
witness for the defence - свидетель защиты
witness for the crown /for the prosecution, against the accused/ - свидетель обвинения
hostile witness - свидетель противной стороны
false witness - лжесвидетель
to hear /to examine/ a witness - допрашивать свидетеля
to challenge a witness - отводить свидетеля
 - 3) *юр.* лицо, присутствующее при оформлении сделки, завещания, подписании брачного контракта *и т. п.*
attesting /subscribing/ witness, witness to a signature - лицо, заверяющее чью-л. подпись; свидетель подписи (*на завещании, обязательстве*)
 2. свидетельское показание; свидетельство
to give witness - давать свидетельские показания; свидетельствовать
to bear witness (of, to) - свидетельствовать; давать свидетельские показания
he bore witness in the murder case - он давал показания по делу об убийстве
to bear smb. witness - а) подтвердить чьи-л. слова; б) засвидетельствовать чей-л. поступок
in witness of /whereof ... - *юр.* в удостоверение чего ...
 3. признак, подтверждение, свидетельство, доказательство
my clothes are a witness to my poverty - моя одежда говорит /свидетельствует/ о бедности
 4. пример
2. ['wɪtnɪs] *v*
1. быть свидетелем, очевидцем (*чего-л.*); видеть (*что-л.*)
to witness an accident - быть очевидцем аварии
 2. свидетельствовать; служить признаком, доказательством
her pale face witnessed the agitation she felt - её бледность говорила о сильном волнении, которое она испытывала
 3. быть местом *или* временем совершения чего-л.
the area has witnessed many a battle - эта местность видела много сражений
 4. *юр.* быть свидетелем при оформлении документа, заверять (*подпись и т. п.*) в качестве свидетеля
to witness a will - засвидетельствовать завещание; заверить подпись на завещании
- witnessed• - «заверено», «удостоверено»
5. давать свидетельские показания, выступать свидетелем (*в суде и т. п.*)
to witness against [for] smb. - давать показания против [в защиту] кого-л.
he witnessed to having seen the man enter the building - он показал, что видел, как этот человек вошёл в дом

witness

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

wit-ness [wɪtnɪs wɪtnɪsɪs wɪtnɪst wɪtnɪsɪŋ] **noun, verb** BrE ['wɪtnəs]

NAme ['wɪtnəs]

noun**PERSON WHO SEES STH**

1. (*also* **eye-wit-ness**) **countable** a person who sees sth happen and is able to describe it to other people
 - Police have appealed for witnesses to the accident.
 - a witness to the killing

IN COURT

2. **countable** a person who gives evidence in court
 - a **defence/prosecution witness**
 - to appear as (a) **witness for the defence/prosecution**
 - Several witnesses testified that there had been two gunmen.

OF SIGNATURE

3. **countable** a person who is present when an official document is signed and who also signs it to prove that they saw this happen
 - He was one of the witnesses at our wedding.

OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

4. **uncountable** evidence of a person's strong religious beliefs, that they show by what they say and do in public
see also ↑ [Jehovah's Witness](#)

Word Origin:Old English wites (see ↑ [wit](#), ↑ [-ness](#)).Collocations:

Crime

Committing a crime

commit a crime/a murder/a violent assault/a brutal killing/an armed robbery/fraud
be involved in terrorism/a suspected arson attack/people smuggling/human trafficking
engage /participate in criminal activity/illegal practices/acts of mindless vandalism
steal sb's wallet/purse/(BrE) mobile phone/(NAme) cell phone
rob a bank/a person/a tourist
break into/ (BrE) burgle/ (NAme) burglarize a house/a home/an apartment
hijack a plane/ship/bus
smuggle drugs/weapons/arms/immigrants
launder drug money (through sth)
forge documents/certificates/passports
take/accept/pay sb/offer (sb) a bribe
run a phishing/an email/an Internet scam

Fighting crime

combat/fight crime/terrorism/corruption/drug trafficking
prevent/stop credit-card fraud/child abuse/software piracy
deter/stop criminals/burglars/thieves/shoplifters/vandals
reduce/tackle/crack down on knife/gun/violent/street crime; (*especially BrE*) antisocial behaviour
foil a bank raid/a terrorist plot
help/support/protect the victims of crime

Investigating crime

report a crime/a theft/a rape/an attack/(*especially BrE*) an incident to the police
witness the crime/attack/murder/incident
investigate a murder/(*especially NAme*) a homicide/a burglary/a robbery/the alleged incident
conduct/launch/pursue an investigation (into...); (*especially BrE*) a police/murder inquiry
investigate/reopen a criminal/murder case
examine /investigate/find fingerprints at the crime scene/the scene of crime
collect/gather forensic evidence
uncover new evidence/a fraud/a scam/a plot/a conspiracy/political corruption/a cache of weapons
describe/identify a suspect/the culprit/the perpetrator/the assailant/the attacker
question/interrogate a suspect/witness
solve/crack the case
more collocations at [↑justice](#)

Collocations:

Criminal justice

Breaking the law

break/violate/obey/uphold the law
be investigated/arrested/tried for a crime/a robbery/fraud
be arrested/ (*especially NAme*) indicted/convicted on charges of rape/fraud/(*especially US*) felony charges
be arrested on suspicion of arson/robbery/shoplifting
be accused of/be charged with murder/(*especially NAme*) homicide/four counts of fraud
face two charges of indecent assault
admit your guilt/liability/responsibility (for sth)
deny the allegations/claims/charges
confess to a crime
grant/be refused/be released on/skip/jump bail

The legal process

stand/await /bring sb to/come to/be on trial
take sb to/come to/settle sth out of court
face/avoid/escape prosecution
seek/retain/have the right to/be denied access to legal counsel
hold/conduct/attend/adjourn a hearing/trial
sit on/influence /persuade/convince the jury
sit/stand/appear /be put/place sb in the dock
plead guilty/not guilty to a crime
be called to/enter (BrE) the witness box
take/put sb on the stand/(NAme) the witness stand
call/subpoena/question/cross-examine a witness
give/hear the evidence against/on behalf of sb
raise/withdraw /overrule an objection
reach a unanimous/majority verdict
return/deliver /record a verdict of not guilty/unlawful killing/accidental death
convict/acquit the defendant of the crime
secure a conviction/your acquittal
lodge/file an appeal
appeal (against)/challenge /uphold/overturn a conviction/verdict

Sentencing and punishment

pass sentence on sb
carry/face/serve a seven-year/life sentence
receive/be given the death penalty
be sentenced to ten years (in prison/jail)
carry/impose/pay a fine (of \$3 000)/a penalty (of 14 years imprisonment)
be imprisoned/jailed for drug possession/fraud/murder
do/serve time/ten years
be sent to/put sb in/be released from jail/prison
be/put sb/spend X years on death row
be granted/be denied/break (your) parole
more collocations at ↑crime

Synonyms:

witness

observer • onlooker • passer-by • bystander • eyewitness

These are all words for a person who sees sth happen.

witness • a person who sees sth happen and is able to describe it to other people; a person who gives evidence in a court of law:

▪ Police have appealed for ▪ witnesses to ▪ the accident.

observer • a person who sees sth happen: ▪ According to observers, the plane exploded shortly after take-off.

onlooker • a person who watches sth that is happening but is not involved in it: ▪ A crowd of onlookers gathered at the scene of the crash.

passer-by • a person who is going past sb/sth by chance, especially when sth unexpected happens: ▪ Police asked passers-by if they had witnessed the accident.

bystander • a person who is near and can see what is happening when sth such as an accident or fight takes place: ▪ Three ▪ innocent bystanders ▪ were killed in the crossfire.

eyewitness • a person who has seen a crime or accident and can describe it afterwards.

a(n) witness/observer/onlooker/passers-by/bystander/an eyewitness **sees** sth

a(n) observer/onlooker/passers-by/bystander **witnesses** sth

Example Bank:

- A judicial investigation was ordered, but witnesses were threatened and none would testify.
- According to witnesses, the thief escaped through the bedroom window.
- As the last person to see her alive, he was a material witness in the case.
- He was charged with conspiracy to suborn witnesses.
- He was placed on a witness protection scheme.
- He was subpoenaed as a witness in a bankruptcy case.
- Police have so far failed to trace any witnesses to the attack.
- She appeared as a character witness.
- She was the only witness to identify Peters as the attacker.
- She went into a witness protection program.
- The ancient temples bear silent witness to the passing dynasties.
- The defence called their first witness.
- The jury convicted him on two counts of witness tampering.
- The next witness took the stand.
- The police are appealing for witnesses.
- Two witnesses came forward with evidence.
- Witnesses reported that the suspect was a white male.
- Would you be willing to act as a witness to my signature when I sign my will?
- a witness to murder
- the defence's chief witness
- the marriage contract is signed in front of witnesses
- Several witnesses testified that there had been two gunmen.
- She appeared as a witness for the prosecution.
- We have a witness to the killing.
- When you sign the contract you'll need a witness.
- a prosecution/defence witness

Idioms: ↑bear witness ▪ ↑witness to something

verb

SEE STH

1. **transitive** ~ **sth** to see sth happen (typically a crime or an accident)

- She was shocked by the violent scenes she had witnessed.
- Police have appealed for anyone who witnessed the incident to contact them.
- The novel is based on an event that he himself had witnessed.
- I couldn't bear to witness their suffering.
- We are now witnessing an unprecedented increase in violent crime.
- We had witnessed one of the most outstanding theatrical performances of the decade.

OF TIME/PLACE

2. **transitive** ~ **sth** to be the place, period, organization, etc. in which particular events take place

- Recent years have witnessed a growing social mobility.
- The retail trade is witnessing a sharp fall in sales.

SIGNATURE

3. **transitive** ~ **sth** to be present when an official document is signed and sign it yourself to prove that you saw this happen

- to witness a signature
- The document was witnessed by a lawyer.

BE SIGN/PROOF

4. **transitive, intransitive, usually passive** to be a sign or proof of sth

- ~ **sth** There has been increasing interest in her life and work, **as witnessed by** the publication of two new biographies.
- ~ **to sth** The huge attendance figures for the exhibition witness to a healthy interest in modern art.

5. **transitive** ~ **sth** (formal) used when giving an example that proves sth you have just said

- Authentic Italian cooking is very healthy— witness the low incidence of heart disease in Italy.

TO RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

6. **intransitive** ~ **(to sth)** (especially NAmE) to speak to people about your strong religious beliefs

Syn: ↑testify

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	witness
	BrE / 'wɪtnɪs/
	NAmE / 'wɪtnɪs/
he / she / it	witnesses
	BrE / 'wɪtnɪsɪz/
	NAmE / 'wɪtnɪsɪz/
past simple, past participle	witnessed
	BrE / 'wɪtnɪst/
	NAmE / 'wɪtnɪst/
-ing form	witnessing
	BrE / 'wɪtnɪsɪŋ/
	NAmE / 'wɪtnɪsɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Old English wītnes (see ↑wit, ↑-ness).

Synonyms:

notice

note • detect • observe • witness

These words all mean to see sth, especially when you pay careful attention to it.

notice • to see, hear or become aware of sb/sth; to pay attention to sb/sth: ▫ The first thing I noticed about the room was the smell.

note • (rather formal) to notice or pay careful attention to sth: ▫ Please note (that) the office will be closed on Monday.

This word is very common in business English: ▫ Note that the prices are inclusive of VAT.

detect • to discover or notice sth, especially sth that is not easy to see, hear, etc: ▫ The tests are designed to detect the disease early.

observe • (formal) to see or notice sb/sth: ▫ Have you observed any changes lately? ◇ ▫ The police observed a man enter the bank.

witness • (rather formal) to see sth happen: ▫ Police have appealed for anyone who witnessed the incident to contact them.

to notice/note/detect/observe **that/how/what/where/who...**

to notice/observe/witness **sth happen/sb do sth**

Example Bank:

- I couldn't bear to witness their suffering.
- Police have appealed for anyone who witnessed the incident to contact them.
- The last century witnessed an unprecedented increase in violent crime.
- We had witnessed one of the most outstanding theatrical performances of the decade.

See also: ↑eyewitness

witness

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

1. **wɪtˈnɪs**¹ **S2 W3** /'wɪtnɪs, 'wɪtnɪs/ BrE ^ˈ AmE ^ˈ noun

[Language: Old English; Origin: wītnes 'knowledge, account, witness', from wit; ⇒ ↑wit]

1. **CRIME/ACCIDENT** [countable] someone who sees a crime or an accident and can describe what happened:

▫ Police have appealed for witnesses to come forward.

witness to

▫ One witness to the accident said the driver appeared to be drunk.

▫ an **eye witness** (=someone who sees an event) to the robbery ⇒ ↑eyewitness

2. **IN A COURT OF LAW** [countable] someone who appears in a court of law to say what they know about a crime or other event ⇒

testify

key/star/principal witness

- the key witness in the case against the brothers
- The defence is expected to call them as witnesses.

witness for the prosecution/defence (also **prosecution/defence witness**) (=someone the prosecution or defence lawyers choose as a witness in order to help prove their case) ⇒ **expert witness**

3. **SIGNING A DOCUMENT** [countable] someone who is present when an official document is signed, and who signs it too, to say that they saw it being signed

witness to

- a witness to a will

4. **be witness to something** *formal* to be present when something happens, and watch it happening:

- We were witness to the worst excesses of the military.

5. **CHRISTIAN BELIEF** [uncountable and countable] *American English* a public statement of strong Christian belief, or someone who makes such a statement

⇒ **bear witness** at ↑bear¹(15)

...

COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 2)

ADJECTIVES/NOUN + witness

- a **key witness** (=a very important witness) Rupert is expected to be a key witness at the trial.
- a **star witness** (=an important witness who says things that help one side a lot) The judge ruled that the state's star witness had lied on the stand.
- a **principal witness** (=a main witness) The principal witness was too ill to testify.
- a **expert witness** (=someone who has special knowledge, for example of medicine, and who talks about it in court) The jury had to choose between the conflicting testimonies of expert witnesses.
- a **character witness** (=a witness who says that the person being tried is a good person) He said he would gladly be a character witness for her.
- a **prosecution witness** During the trial, over thirty prosecution witnesses were called.
- a **defence witness** A defence witness said that Carter was not holding a gun when the shot was fired.

phrases

- a **witness for the prosecution/defence** Witnesses for the prosecution have not sounded convincing.

verbs

- call a witness** (=require a witness to speak in court) She was the final witness to be called.
- question a witness** They were not permitted to question government witnesses.
- cross-examine a witness** (=ask them questions about what they have said) His attorney cross-examined the witness.
- appear as a witness** He appeared as an expert witness at several government enquiries.
- a **witness testifies** (=makes a statement) We had two witnesses who testified that they had seen him hitting his wife.
- a **witness gives evidence** Child witnesses gave evidence using closed circuit television cameras.

witness + NOUN

- the **witness box/stand** (=where the witness sits when speaking in court) He spent three hours in the witness stand.
- the **statement/testimony of a witness** (=what a witness says) The testimony of one witness led to his conviction.

...

THESAURUS

In a court

- defendant** the person who is on trial for a crime
- the **defence** *British English*, the **defense** *American English* the lawyers who are working for the defendant
- the **prosecution** the lawyers who are trying to prove that the defendant is guilty
- judge** the official in charge of a court who decides how criminals should be punished
- jury** a group of people, usually 12 people, who listen to the facts and decide whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty
- witness** someone who describes in a court of law what he or she knows about a crime
- testimony** a formal statement made in a court of law about a particular situation or action
- verdict** the decision of the jury as to whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty

II. witness² BrE " AmE " verb

1. **CRIME/ACCIDENT** [transitive] to see something happen, especially a crime or accident:

- Several residents claim to have witnessed the attack.

2. **EXPERIENCE SOMETHING** [transitive] to experience important events or changes:

- Priests have witnessed an increase in religious intolerance.

3. **TIME/PLACE** [transitive] if a time or place witnesses an event, the event happens during that time or in that place:

- Recent years have witnessed the collapse of the steel industry.

4. **OFFICIAL DOCUMENT** [transitive] if you witness the signing of an official document, you are there when it is signed, and sign it yourself to prove this:

- Will you witness my signature?

5. **witness something** (also ..., as **witnessed by something**) used to introduce an example that proves something you have just mentioned:

- Bad economic times can result in political dictatorships. Witness Germany in the 1930s.

6. **RELIGION** [intransitive] to speak publicly about your Christian beliefs ⇒ **testify**

witness12500 **2666**^{MCW}15000 **1382**^{COCA}RANGE: **2k** WITNESS 30620

witness 13969

witnessing 1529

witnesses 9711

witnessed 5393

unwitnessed 18

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

5309 **3898**¹⁰³¹⁷ *nn1*1741 **13930**¹⁹¹² *vvi*1522 **14855**¹⁷²⁰ *vv0*15 **177849**²⁰ *nnu*