

secret

1. ['si:krit] *n*
- секрет, тайна
 dead secret - глубокая тайна
 a military secret - военная тайна
 an open secret - всем известный секрет; секрет полишинеля
 to keep a secret - хранить тайну
 to entrust smb. with a secret - доверить кому-л. тайну
 he has no secrets - он ничего не скрывает
 we have no secrets from one another - у нас нет тайн /секретов/ друг от друга
 to make no secret of smth. - не делать из чего-л. тайны /секрета/
 in secret - а) тайно; б) по секрету, под секретом
 I was told about it in secret - мне сказали об этом по секрету
 she wept in secret - она тайком плакала
 to be in the secret - быть посвящённым в тайну
 to let smb. into a /the/ secret - посвятить кого-л. в тайну
 the secret is out - тайное стало явным
 to pass state secrets to a foreign government - передавать государственные тайны иностранному правительству
 - ключ, разгадка; тайная причина
 the secret of his success - причина /секрет/ его успеха
 - загадка, что-л. необъяснимое, скрытое
 lover's secrets - признания влюблённого
 the secrets of nature - тайны природы
 the secret of human motive - загадка поведения человека, тайна побудительных сил, объясняющих поступки человека
 the secret of perpetual youth - тайна /секрет/ вечной молодости
2. ['si:krit] *a*
- тайный, секретный, сохраняемый в тайне
 secret agent - тайный /секретный/ агент
 secret diplomacy - тайная дипломатия
 secret errand [society, influence] - тайное поручение [общество, влияние]
 secret marriage - тайный брак
 secret meeting - тайное собрание
 secret post - **воен.** секрет
 secret treaty - тайный договор
 a secret traffic in drugs - тайная торговля наркотиками
 to keep up a secret correspondence with smb. - поддерживать тайную переписку с кем-л.
 top secret - совершенно секретно (*надпись на документах*)
 there is nothing secret about it - в этом нет никакого секрета
 - потайной, скрытый
 secret door [staircase, drawer] - потайная дверь [лестница -ой ящик (*в столе*)]
 to press a secret spring of a writing-desk - нажать на скрытую пружину, открывающую письменный стол
 - скрытый, замкнутый
 secret in his habits - скрытый по характеру
 secret as the grave - молчаливый; ≅ могила
 - зашифрованный, условный
 secret code - шифровальный код, тайнопись
 secret language - **воен.** а) шифр; код; б) зашифрованный текст
 secret padlock - замок с секретом /с шифром/
 secret sign - условный знак
 - таинственный, загадочный, непостижимый
 the secret workings of nature - таинственные процессы, происходящие в природе
 the secret workings of the human heart - скрытые /тайные/ движения души
 - 1) уединённый; удалённый
 secret valley - затерянная долина
 2) затаённый
 secret feeling - затаённое чувство
 in my secret heart - в глубине души
 the secret places of the heart - тайники души
 - учм.** непонятный, недоступный для понимания
 ◇ secret parts - **эфф.** половые органы
3. ['si:krit] *adv*
 в секрете, в тайне
 to keep smth. secret - держать что-л. в секрете
 the news must be kept secret - эти известия нельзя разглашать

secret

se-cret [secret secrets] adjective, noun *BrE* ['si:kri:t] *NAmE* ['si:kri:t]

adjective

1. known about by only a few people; kept hidden from others

• **secret information/meetings/talks**

- ~ **(from sb)** He tried to **keep it secret** from his family.
- Details of the proposals remain secret.
- a secret passage leading to the beach

see also ↑top secret

2. only before noun used to describe actions and behaviour that you do not tell other people about

- He's a secret drinker.
- I didn't know you were a secret football fan.
- her secret fears
- a secret room

3. not usually before noun ~ (about sth) (of a person or their behaviour) liking to have secrets that other people do not know about; showing this

Syn: ↑secretive

- They were so secret about everything.
- Jessica caught a secret smile flitting between the two of them.

Word Origin:

late Middle English: from Old French, from Latin **secretus** (adjective) '**separate, set apart**', from the verb **secernere**, from **se-** 'apart' + **cernere** 'sift'.

Example Bank:

- They managed to keep the party more or less secret from Christine.
- a top secret meeting
- revealing the text of the hitherto secret treaty
- He's a secret drinker.
- I didn't know you were a secret football fan.
- Perhaps he has secret hopes that she'll go back to him.
- She could not tell him her secret hopes and fears.
- She told me about her secret fears for the future.
- The ceasefire was agreed following secret talks between the two leaders.
- There's a secret passage leading to the beach.
- This information has been classified top secret.

Idiom: ↑in secret

Derived Word ↑secretly

noun

1. countable something that is known about by only a few people and not told to others

- Can you **keep a secret** ?
- The location of the ship is **a closely guarded secret** .
- Shall we **let him in on** (= tell him) **the secret** ?
- He **made no secret of** his ambition (= he didn't try to hide it) .
- She was dismissed for revealing trade secrets.
- **official/State secrets**
- dark secrets from his past

2. (usually the secret) singular the best or only way to achieve sth; the way a particular person achieves sth

- Careful planning is the secret of success .
- She still looks so young. What's her secret?

3. countable, usually plural a thing that is not yet fully understood or that is difficult to understand

- the secrets of the universe

more at a guilty secret **at** ↑guilty adj., be an open secret **at** ↑open adj.

Word Origin:

late Middle English: from Old French, from Latin **secretus** (adjective) '**separate, set apart**', from the verb **secernere**, from **se-** 'apart' + **cernere** 'sift'.

Thesaurus:

secret **noun**

1. C

- The two leaders held a number of secret talks .

confidential • • **private** • • **classified** • • **undisclosed** • • **personal** • • **intimate** •

Opp: open

secret/confidential/private/classified/undisclosed/personal **information**

secret/confidential/private/classified/personal **documents**

keep sth secret/confidential/private

2. only before noun

- He was a secret agent during the war.

undercover • • **underground** • |formal **covert** • |formal, usually disapproving **clandestine** •

secret/undercover/underground/covert/clandestine **activity**

a secret/clandestine **meeting/relationship/affair**

Example Bank:

- Can you keep a secret?
- He refuses to make any secret of his political allegiances.
- How did the secret get out?
- I have no secrets from you.
- She let us into her secret— she was engaged.
- She revealed the secret behind her extraordinary success.
- That evening she had revealed many of her innermost secrets.
- The film stars were married in secret to avoid publicity.
- Their affair is an open secret.
- Their relationship remained a secret.
- There was some secret about the source of his wealth.
- These animals may hold the secret to combating the virus.
- Uncle Charlie hides a dark secret.
- a charming museum that is one of the city's best-kept secrets
- the secrets of staying healthy
- He made no secret of his ambition.
- He spent much of his childhood here, learning the secrets of the woods.
- Shall we let him in on the secret?
- The location of the ship is a closely guarded secret.
- They hope to unlock the secrets of the universe
- trade/official/State secrets

secret

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **seˈkrɪt**¹ **S3 W2** /'sɪkrət, 'sɪkrɪt/ *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ *adjective*

[**Word Family:** **noun:** ↑*secrecy*, ↑*secret*, ↑*secretiveness*; **adverb:** ↑*secretly*, ↑*secretively*; **adjective:** ↑*secret*, ↑*secretive*; **verb:** ↑*secrete*]

[**Date:** 1300-1400; **Language:** Old French; **Origin:** Latin *secretus*, past participle of *secernere* 'to separate']

1. known about by only a few people and kept hidden from others ⇒ **secrecy:**

- They kept their relationship secret from their parents.
- agents on a secret mission
- secret talks with the terrorists

secret compartment/passage etc

- The drugs were found in a secret compartment in Campbell's suitcase.

secret ingredient/recipe/formula

- The cookies are made to a secret recipe.

2. [**only before noun**] secret feelings, worries, or actions are ones that you do not want other people to know about:

- His secret fear was that Jenny would leave him.
- Did you know you had a secret admirer (=someone who is secretly in love with you)?

3. **secret weapon** something that will help you gain a big advantage over your competitors, that they do not know about

4. used to describe the behaviour of someone who is keeping their thoughts, intentions, or actions hidden from other people **SYN**

secretive

secret about

- They're being very secret about it.
- There was a secret smile on her face.

—**secretly** *adverb:*

- They were secretly married.

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THESAURUS

- **secret** known about by only a few people, who have agreed not to tell anyone else: a secret meeting place | The details of the proposal must remain secret.
- **confidential** used about information, especially in business or government, that is secret and not intended to be shown or told to other people: a highly confidential report | Employees' personal details are treated as strictly confidential.
- **classified** used about information that the government has ordered to be kept secret from most people: He was accused of passing on classified information to the Russians in the 1950s.
- **sensitive** used about information that is kept secret because there would be problems if the wrong people knew it: A teenager managed to hack into sensitive US Air Force files.
- **covert** [**only before noun**] used about things that are done secretly, especially by a government or official organization: a CIA covert operation
- **undercover** [**usually before noun**] used about things that are done secretly by the police in order to catch criminals or find out information: Detectives arrested the suspect after a five-day undercover operation.
- **underground** an underground organization or newspaper is one that operates or is produced secretly and opposes the government: Her father was a member of the underground resistance movement in France during World War II.
- **clandestine** /klæn'destən, klæn'destɪn/ secret and often illegal or immoral: clandestine meetings | his involvement in a clandestine operation to sell arms to Iran | a clandestine love affair
- **hush-hush** *informal* used about information or activities that are kept officially secret: He was put in charge of some hush-hush

military project. | I've no idea what he does – it's all very hush-hush.

COLLOCATIONS CHECK

- **confidential** information/document/report/letter/inquiry
- **classified** information/document/material
- **sensitive** information/files
- **covert** operation/support/activities/war/aid
- **undercover** agent/operation/investigation/work
- **underground** organization/newspaper/economy
- **clandestine** meeting/operation/organization/network
- **hush-hush** research/project/experiment

II. **secret**² **S3** **W3** **BrE** ^{AmE} **AmE** ^{noun} [countable]

[Word Family: noun: ↑**secrecy**, ↑**secret**, ↑**secretiveness**; **adverb**: ↑**secretly**, ↑**secretively**; **adjective**: ↑**secret**, ↑**secretive**; **verb**: ↑**secrete**]

1. something that is kept hidden or that is known about by only a few people ⇒ **secrecy**:

- I can't tell you. It's a **secret**.
- It was **no secret** that the two men hated each other.
- Don't worry. Your **secret** is **safe with me** (=I won't tell anyone about it).

2. **in secret** in a private way or place that other people do not know about:

- The negotiations were conducted **in secret**.

3. **the secret** a particular way of achieving a good result, that is the best or only way

the secret to (doing) something

- The **secret** to making good pastry is to use very cold water.
- Your hair always looks so great – **what's your secret?**
- What do you think is **the secret** of her **success**?

4. **make no secret of something** to make your opinions about something clear:

- Louise **made no secret** of her dislike for John.

5. **the secrets of life/nature/the universe etc** the things no one yet knows about life, nature etc

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COLLOCATIONS

verbs

- **have a secret** We have no secrets from each other.
- **know a secret** (=about someone else) You can tell Tom that I know his secret.
- **keep a secret** (=not tell it to anyone) Can you keep a secret?
- **tell somebody a secret** Shall I tell you a secret?
- **let somebody in on a secret** (=tell them a secret) Frank let me in on the secret.
- **reveal/divulge a secret** *formal* (=tell it to someone) He was accused of revealing state secrets.
- **give away a secret** (=tell it to someone carelessly or by mistake) I had to be careful not to give away any secrets.
- **share a secret** (=tell it to someone because you trust them) I trusted Alexander, so I decided to share my secret with him.
- **discover/find out a secret** He was afraid that someone would discover his secret.

ADJECTIVES/NOUN + secret

- **a big secret** (=an important secret or one that very few people know) The event was supposed to be a big secret, but everyone knew about it.
- **a little secret** (=a personal secret that very few people know) You must promise me that this will be our little secret.
- **a closely guarded/well-kept secret** (=a secret that few people are allowed to know) The recipe is a closely guarded secret.
- **an open secret** (=something that a lot of people know, but do not talk about because it is supposed to be a secret) It was an open secret that he was having an affair.
- **a dark/terrible secret** (=a secret about something bad) I'm sure every family has a few dark secrets.
- **a dirty secret** (=a shameful secret) The exclusion of black people from the film industry is one of Hollywood's dirty little secrets.
- **a guilty secret** (=a secret that someone feels guilty about) He had finally discovered Jo's guilty secret.
- **sb's innermost secrets** (=very private or personal secrets) She wasn't confident enough to share her innermost secrets with him.
- **a family secret** Their normally strong relationship is threatened when he has to reveal a family secret.
- **a state/official secret** (=a government secret) He was accused of passing on state secrets to a foreign power.
- **a trade secret** (=a company or business secret) They must not betray their employer's trust, for instance by giving away trade secrets.
- **military secrets** He was sent to prison for five years in 1933 for selling military secrets to Germany.

COMMON ERRORS

- ▶ Do not say '**say a secret**' or '**say your secrets**'. Say **tell somebody a secret** or **tell somebody your secrets**.

secret

Freakuency Pack

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15000 **1014**^{COCA}

RANGE: **2k** **SECRET** 45817

secret 30602

secrecy 2713

secretly 3587

secrets 7626

secretive 1199

secretiveness 46

secretively 44

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

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