

whisper**1. ['wɪspə] n**

1. шёпот

to speak in a whisper /in whispers/ - говорить шёпотом

2. слух, молва; наушничество, нащёпывание

a whisper of scandal - сплетни, «шепоток»

3. 1) слово, намёк

not a whisper of reproach - ни слова упрёка [ср. тж. 2])

to give the whisper - намекнуть, «шепнуть»

2) ничтожное количество

not a whisper of - ни малейшего признака, ни следа, ни тени [ср. тж. 1])

a whisper of the perfume she used - еле ощутимый запах её духов

hardly a whisper of concern was voiced - не было проявлено почти никаких признаков беспокойства

4. шорох, шуршание, шелест (*листвы, ветра и т. п.*)**2. ['wɪspə] v**

1. 1) шептать, говорить шёпотом

2) шептаться, шушукаться

2. нащёпывать, наушничать; сообщать по секрету, на ухо

it is whispered that ... - ходит слух, что ...

3. шелестеть, шуршать (*о листве, ветре и т. п.*)**whisper**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

whis·per [whisper whispers whispered whispering] verb noun BrE ['wɪspə(r)]

" NAmE ['wɪspər]"

verb

1. intransitive, transitive to speak very quietly to sb so that other people cannot hear what you are saying**Syn:** ↑murmur

- Don't you know it's rude to whisper?
- ~ **about sth** What are you two whispering about?
- + **speech** 'Can you meet me tonight?' he whispered.
- ~ **sth (to sb)** She leaned over and whispered something in his ear.
- ~ **(to sb) that...** He whispered to me that he was afraid.

2. transitive, often passive ~ that... | it is whispered that... to say or suggest sth about sb/sth in a private or secret way

• It was whispered that he would soon die and he did.

3. intransitive (+ adv./prep.) (literary) (of leaves, the wind, etc.) to make a soft, quiet sound

• A warm breeze whispered through the trees.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	whisper
	BrE / 'wɪspə(r)/
	NAmE / 'wɪspər/
he / she / it	whispers
	BrE / 'wɪspəz/
	NAmE / 'wɪspərz/
past simple, past participle	whispered
	BrE / 'wɪspəd/
	NAmE / 'wɪspərd/
-ing form	whispering
	BrE / 'wɪspərɪŋ/
	NAmE / 'wɪspərɪŋ/

Word Origin:Old English hwisprian, of Germanic origin; related to German *wispeln*, from the imitative base of ↑whistle.Example Bank:

- 'Come on,' he whispered urgently.
- 'Hush!' he whispered against her hair.
- 'Let's go,' she whispered to Anne.
- 'No!' he whispered through gritted teeth.
- 'Yes,' I whispered back.
- He could only whisper in reply.
- He held her and whispered sweet nothings in her ear.
- I felt that everyone was whispering about me.
- She heard him whisper her name.
- Don't you know it's rude to whisper?

noun

1. a low quiet voice or the sound it makes**Syn:** ↑murmur

- They spoke **in whispers** .
- Her voice dropped to a whisper.

see also †stage whisper

2. (also **whis-per-ing**) (literary) a soft sound

Syn: †murmur

• I could hear the whispering of the sea.

3. a piece of news that is spread by being talked about but may not be true

Syn: †rumour

• I've heard whispers that he's leaving.

Word Origin:

Old English hwisprian, of Germanic origin; related to German **wispeln**, from the imitative base of †whistle.

Example Bank:

- A barely audible whisper came from the closet.
- Jake got excited at the merest whisper of his lover.
- Their voices were very quiet, hardly above a whisper.
- They spoke in whispers.
- If the whispers are to be believed, the two companies are talking about a merger.
- They spoke in barely audible whispers.

whisper

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **whisper**¹ **W3** /'wɪspə \$ -ər/ *BrE* *AmE* verb

[Language: Old English; Origin: hwisprian]

1. [intransitive and transitive] to speak or say something very quietly, using your breath rather than your voice:

• You don't have to whisper, no one can hear us.

whisper about

• What are you two whispering about over there?

whisper something to somebody

• James leaned over to whisper something to Michael.

• 'I've missed you,' he whispered in her ear.

2. [transitive] to say or suggest something privately or secretly

whisper that

• Staff were whispering that the company was about to go out of business.

• • •

THESAURUS

■ different ways of saying something

- **whisper** to say something very quietly, using your breath rather than your full voice: 'Don't wake the baby,' Jenny whispered.
- **mumble** to say something quietly without pronouncing the words clearly: He mumbled his thanks.
- **mutter** to say something quietly, especially when you are annoyed but do not want someone to hear you complaining: 'This is ridiculous,' he muttered under his breath. | She muttered something about having to go home early.
- **murmur** to say something in a soft slow gentle voice: She stroked his hair and murmured, 'Don't worry. You'll be all right.'
- **growl** to say something in a low angry voice: 'As I was saying,' Lewis growled, 'it needs to be finished today.'
- **snarl** to say something in a nasty angry way: 'Get out of my way!' he snarled.
- **exclaim** to say something suddenly and loudly: 'How beautiful!' she exclaimed.
- **blurt out** to suddenly say something without thinking, especially something embarrassing or secret: It was partly nervousness that had made him blurt out the question.
- **stammer/stutter** to speak with a lot of pauses and repeated sounds, because you have a speech problem, or because you are nervous or excited: 'I'll, I'll only be a m-moment,' he stammered.

II. **whisper**² *BrE* *AmE* noun [countable]

1. a very quiet voice you make using your breath and no sound

in a whisper

• 'Where are we going?' he asked in a whisper.

2. a piece of news or information that has not been officially announced and may or may not be true **SYN** rumour

whisper of

• The first whisper of the redundancies came from the newspapers.

whisper that

• There are whispers that the actor was seen checking into a hospital last week.

3. a **whisper of something** *literary* a low soft sound made by something such as the wind

• • •

COLLOCATIONS

■ adjectives

- a **hoarse whisper** Her voice came out as a hoarse whisper.
- a **loud whisper** 'Where are you going?' I said in a loud whisper.
- a **low/soft whisper** When he spoke, it was in a low whisper.
- a **stage whisper** (=a loud whisper that you intend everyone to hear) 'What's going on?' Rory said, in a stage whisper.
- a **hushed whisper** They spoke in the hushed whispers of churchgoers.
- an **urgent whisper** 'Daddy!' he said in an urgent whisper.
- a **fierce whisper** 'Let me go!' she said in a fierce whisper.
- a **conspiratorial whisper** (=used when you share a secret with someone) 'Does she suspect anything?' said Ruth in a

conspiratorial whisper.

■ phrases

- **speak/talk in whispers** They spoke in quick, urgent whispers.
- **barely/hardly/scarcely above a whisper** (=only a little louder than a whisper) 'Not me', he said, in a voice barely above a whisper.

whisper

Freakuency Pack

12500 **2662**^{MCW}

15000 **1804**^{COCA}

RANGE: **5k** WHISPER 21258

whisper 4781

whispers 3256

whispered 10256

whispering 2828

whisperer 125

whisperers 12

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

2254 **10155**³⁰⁰⁹ *nn1*

853 **21959**⁹³⁸ *vvi*

685 **23790**⁸²³ *vv0*

1 **256772**¹¹ *np1*