insect

in·sect [insect insects] BrE ['Insekt] NAmE ['Insekt] noun

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.



any small creature with six legs and a body divided into three parts. Insects usually also have wings. Ants, thees and flies are all insects

- · insect species
- insect repellent (= a chemical that keeps insects away)
- an insect bite
- The pesticide is lethal to all insect life.

see also [†]stick insect Insect is often used to refer to other small creatures, for example spiders, although this is not correct scientific language.

Word Origin:

early 17th cent. (originally denoting any small cold-blooded creature with a segmented body): from Latin (animal) insectum 'segmented (animal)' (translating Greek zoion entomon), from insecare 'cut up or into', from in- 'into' + secare 'to cut'.

Collocations:

The living world Animals animals mate/breed/reproduce/feed (on sth) fish/amphibians swim/spawn (= lay eggs) birds fly/migrate/nest/sing insects crawl/fly/bite/sting insects/bees/locusts swarm bees collect/gather nectar/pollen spiders spin/weave a web snakes/lizards shed their skins bears/hedgehogs/frogs hibernate insect larvae grow/develop/pupate an egg/a chick/a larva hatches attract/find/choose a mate produce/release eggs/sperm lay/fertilize/incubate/hatch eggs inhabit a forest/a reef/the coast mark/enter/defend (a) territory stalk/hunt/capture/catch/kill prey Plants and fungi trees/plants grow/bloom/blossom/flower a seed germinates/sprouts leaves/buds/roots/shoots appear/develop/form flower buds swell/open a fungus grows/spreads/colonizes sth pollinate /fertilize a flower/plant produce/release/spread/disperse pollen/seeds/spores produce/bear fruit develop/grow/form roots/shoots/leaves provide/supply/absorb/extract/release nutrients perform/increase/reduce photosynthesis Bacteria and viruses bacteria/microbes/viruses grow/spread/multiply bacteria/microbes live/thrive in/on sth bacteria/microbes/viruses evolve/colonize sth/cause disease bacteria break sth down/convert sth (into sth) a virus enters/invades sth/the body

a virus mutates/evolves/replicates (itself) be infected with/contaminated with/exposed to a new strain of a virus/drug-resistant bacteria contain/carry/harbour (*especially US*) harbor bacteria/a virus kill/destroy/eliminate harmful/deadly bacteria

Example Bank:

- An insect was buzzing around the room.
- Birds control insect pests.
- · Gardeners welcome birds as they control insect pests.
- · Insects had bored deep into the wood.
- Social insects, such as ants, live in large colonies.
- The wood should be treated against insect attack.
- · Unfortunately, pesticides kill off beneficial insects as well as harmful ones.
- Wasps are the master builders of the insect world.

insect

in sect W3 /'Insekt/ BrE AmE noun [countable]

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

[Date: 1600-1700; Language: Latin; Origin: insectum, from insecare *'to cut into'*; because insects have a body in separate parts] a small creature such as a fly or [†]ant, that has six legs, and sometimes wings:

- an insect bite
- flying insects
 - Don't forget to bring insect repellent (=a chemical to keep insects away).
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COLLOCATIONS

adjectives

- small The bird's natural diet mainly consists of small insects.
- tiny (=very small) The air was filled with thousands of tiny insects.
- a flying insect Toads mainly eat small dark flying insects.
- a winged insect literary: Swallows swooped to snatch winged insects from the sky.

verbs

- an insect flies Insects were flying around the food on the counter.
- an insect crawls (=moves along the ground) A tiny insect was crawling up his arm.
- an insect buzzes (=makes a continuous sound) Insects were buzzing around our heads as we walked through the forest.

insect + NOUN

- an insect bite He was worried about a large red insect bite on his back.
- an insect sting (=a hole in your skin made by an insect) This cream is good for treating insect stings.
- insect repellent (=a chemical to keep insects away) If you go camping, you should take some insect repellent.
- an insect species Large numbers of insect species are becoming extinct.
- insect eggs The leaves were covered in insect eggs.
- insect larvae (=young insects with soft bodies and no wings) Fish love food such as worms and insect larvae.

••• THESAURUS

• insect a small creature such as a fly or ant, that has six legs, and sometimes wings: Head lice are tiny insects that live in the hair.

- bug a small insect: What are those little bugs in my roses?
- creepy-crawly informal an insect, especially one that you are frightened of: The mattress was covered in creepy-crawlies.
- aphid technical a small insect that lives on the juice of plants and destroys them: The leaves have been attacked by aphids.

insect

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