

lesbian

▪ **I. les·bian** [lesbian lesbians] *BrE* ['leɪzbɪən] ^ˈ *NAmE* ['leɪzbɪən] ^ˈ (also informal **lezz**y, **lezzie** *BrE* ^ˈ; *NAmE* ^ˈ) **noun**

a woman who is sexually attracted to other women

- lesbians and gays

compare ↑gay, ↑homosexual

Derived Word ↑lesbianism

See also: ↑lezzie ▪ ↑lezz

Word Origin:

late 19th cent.: via Latin from Greek **Lesbios**, from Lesbos, home of Sappho, who expressed affection for women in her poetry, + ↑-ian.

Example Bank:

- She came out as a lesbian in her teens.
- She's an out lesbian.
- The singer has become a lesbian icon.

▪ **II. les·bian** **adjective**

- the lesbian and gay community
- a lesbian relationship

Main entry: ↑lesbian_{derived}

lesbian

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

les·bi·an /'leɪzbɪən/ *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ **noun** [countable]

[**Date:** 1800-1900; **Origin:** Lesbian 'of the Greek island Lesbos' (17-21 centuries), home of the 7th-century BC female poet Sappho, who was said to be homosexual]

a woman who is sexually attracted to other women ⇒ **gay**

—**lesbian** **adjective**

—**lesbianism** **noun** [uncountable]

lesbian

Freakuency Pack

12500 **6572**^{MCW}

15000 **3330**^{COCA}

RANGE: **6k** **LESBIAN** 7039

lesbian 4683

lesbians 2199

lesbianism 157

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

1460 **9615**³²⁴⁶ *jj*

765 **16993**¹⁴⁰⁴ *nn1*

18 **164792**²³ *nnu*

7 **264617**¹⁰ *np1*