



m-w.com



Quiz

Name That Thing

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missile



missile

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7 ENTRIES FOUND:

missile

[antiballistic missile](#)

[antimissile missile](#)

About Our Definitions: All forms of a word (noun, verb, etc.) are now displayed on one page.

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¹mis·sile *adjective* \ˈmi-səl, chiefly British -,sɪl\

Definition of MISSILE

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- 1 : capable of being thrown or projected to strike a distant object
- 2 : adapted for throwing or hurling [missiles](#)

Origin of MISSILE

Latin *missilis*, from *mittere* to throw, send

First Known Use: 1611

Rhymes with MISSILE

[bristle](#), [fissile](#), [gristle](#), [missal](#), [scissile](#), [thistle](#), [whistle](#)

²missile *noun*

Definition of MISSILE

: an object (as a weapon) thrown or projected usually so as to strike something at a distance <stones, artillery shells, bullets, and rockets are *missiles*>: as

a : GUIDED MISSILE

b : BALLISTIC MISSILE

[See missile defined for English-language learners](#) »
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First Known Use of MISSILE

circa 1656

Other Military Terms

[bivouac](#), [logistics](#), [petard](#), [salient](#), [sally](#), [supernumerary](#),

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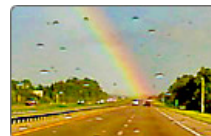


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cited in U.S. v. Flores, No. 11-50550, archived on September 9, 2013

tactical

Rhymes with MISSILE

bristle, whistle

missile *noun* (Concise Encyclopedia)



Components of an infrared-homing ("heat-seeking") air-to-air missile.—© Merriam-Webster Inc.

ROCKET-propelled weapon designed to deliver an explosive warhead with great accuracy at high speed. Missiles vary from small tactical weapons effective out to only a few hundred feet to much larger strategic weapons with ranges of several thousand miles. They were not developed in any significant way until after World War II. Almost all contain some form of guidance and control mechanism and are therefore often called GUIDED MISSILES. An unguided military missile, as well as any launch vehicle used to penetrate the upper atmosphere or place a satellite in space, is usually called a rocket. A propeller-driven underwater missile is called a TORPEDO, and a guided missile powered along a low, level flight path by an air-breathing jet engine is called a CRUISE missile. With the development of ICBMs, missiles became central to COLD WAR strategy. See also ANTIBALLISTIC MISSILE, MINUTEMAN MISSILE, V-1 MISSILE, V-2 MISSILE.

Learn More About MISSILE

- Spanish Central: [Spanish translation of "missile"](#)
- Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about "missile"](#)

Browse

- Next Word in the Dictionary: [missileer](#)
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“Seen & Heard”

What made you want to look up *missile*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

15 comments



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Leslie M Schoenecker · Full time cake decorator at Walmart
I heard it mispronounced and wanted to confirm my usage and pronunciation
Reply · Like · August 31 at 6:49pm



Susan Blais · Berlin Senior High School
I looked up missile after reading it in a historical novel set in 1695. I wanted to
Reply · Like · July 8 at 4:07pm



Eunice Carlson
Like Mr Ring I wanted to know if missile was another word for letter -- sill not
Reply · Like · May 31 at 4:07pm



Montague Street
"there we all were in one place" Yes, it was missle, missal, missive, and missal
Reply · Like · September 25, 2012 at 7:46am



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