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NATIONAL

Idaho lawmakers pass a bill to prevent minors from leaving the state for abortion

MARCH 30, 2023 · 6:01 PM ET



By James Dawson



Pro-abortion rights advocates march in Boise, Idaho following the publication of a leaked U.S. Supreme Court draft opinion to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in May 2022.

James Dawson/Boise State Public Radio

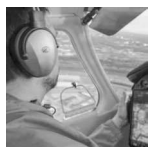
BOISE, Idaho – After clearing both legislative chambers, Idaho could become the first state in the country, according to Planned Parenthood, to criminally charge those who help pregnant minors get an abortion across state lines without parental consent.

If convicted, the penalty could be two to five years in prison under the bill passed by the Idaho Senate Thursday.

Neighboring Oregon, Montana, Washington and Wyoming currently allow abortions with varying levels of restrictions.

Republican State Sen. Scott Herndon supported the bill, but wanted it to go further.

"Neither a parent nor a guardian should be allowed protection from trafficking a minor for purposes of an abortion outside the state," Herndon said Thursday.



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Volunteer pilots fly patients seeking abortions to states where it's legal

Supporters call the potential crime "abortion trafficking" – something Senate Minority Leader Melissa Wintrow, a Democrat who has worked with sexual assault survivors for decades, said cheapens the experience of human trafficking victims forced into slavery or prostitution.

Wintrow said it also doesn't account for minors who were raped and became pregnant by their fathers who aren't able to safely tell law enforcement.

"It is unnecessary and unneeded and further shackles young girls who are in trouble," Wintrow said, adding, "and then it harms the parents' friends, the relatives, etc., who are trying to help her."

*Not cited in Matsuoto v. Labrador
No. 23-3787 archived November 22 & 25, 2024*



Republican state Sen. Todd Lakey is one of the prime sponsors of a bill that would criminally charge anyone who helps a pregnant minor get an abortion outside of Idaho without parental permission.

James Dawson/Boise State Public Radio

Idaho already has some of the strictest abortion laws

Idaho only allows the procedure to be performed in cases of rape, incest, or if the mother would die without one.

Thursday, legislators clarified certain instances when a mother's life is in jeopardy, but that change still needs approval from Republican Gov. Brad Little.

State law also allows family members and the father of an aborted fetus to file civil lawsuits against doctors who perform an abortion outside of those exceptions — for \$20,000 per violation.



HEALTH CARE

Federal judge in Texas hears case that could force a major abortion pill off market

Currently, rapists can't sue, but a Senate amendment to the so-called "trafficking" bill would delete that part of the code and allow rapists to bring a civil case.

House lawmakers agreed to that change Thursday afternoon.

Opponents questioned the legality of the legislation since federal law regulates interstate travel. Republican Sen. Todd Lakey rejects that, saying the crime takes place in Idaho when a person conceals a trip to an abortion clinic from a parent.

"We have the authority and the obligation and the opportunity to establish criminal laws in Idaho, and to take those acts in Idaho. That's what we're saying is a crime," Lakey said.

The bill now goes to Gov. Brad Little's desk for consideration.

Should it become law, Rebecca Gibron, CEO of Planned Parenthood Great Northwest, told the Idaho Capital Sun this week the organization intends to challenge it.

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Idaho Is About To Be The First State To Restrict Interstate Travel For Abortion Post-Roe

Alanna Vagianos

Idaho already has some of the most extreme [abortion](#) restrictions on the books, with nearly all abortions banned in the state and an affirmative defense law that essentially asserts any doctor who provides an abortion is guilty until proven innocent. And now Idaho Republicans have set their sights on hindering certain residents from traveling out of state to get an abortion.

[House Bill 242](#), which passed through the state House and is likely to move quickly through the Senate, seeks to limit minors' ability to travel for abortion care without parental consent. The legislation would create a whole new crime — dubbed “abortion trafficking” — which is defined in the bill as an “adult who, with the intent to conceal an abortion from the parents or guardian of a pregnant, unemancipated minor, either procures an abortion ... or obtains an abortion-inducing drug” for the minor. “Recruiting, harboring, or transporting the pregnant minor within this state commits the crime of abortion trafficking,” the legislation adds.

Abortion trafficking would be a felony, and those found guilty would face two to five years in prison. The legislation also includes a statute allowing the Idaho attorney general to supersede any local prosecutor's decision, preemptively thwarting any prosecutor who vows not to enforce such an extreme law.

Since the bill would criminalize anyone transporting a pregnant minor without parental consent within the state to get an abortion or to obtain medication abortion, it could apply to an aunt who drives a pregnant minor to the post office to pick up a package that includes abortion pills. Or it could target an older sibling who drives a pregnant minor to a friend's house to self-manage an abortion at home. Either violation would carry a minimum sentence of two years in prison.

The legislation doesn't actually say anything about crossing state lines, but Republican lawmakers are creative. Most pregnant people in Idaho are not traveling to obtain an abortion elsewhere in the state, since nearly all abortions are illegal in Idaho; they're traveling to the border with the intent of crossing state lines, likely into Washington, Oregon or Montana, to get an abortion there.

“Technically, they're not criminalizing people driving in Washington state with a minor. The crime is the time that someone is driving the minor in Idaho,” said [David Cohen](#), a law professor at Philadelphia's Drexel University whose work focuses on constitutional law and abortion policy.

“They're going to say what they're doing is just criminalizing actions that take place completely within Idaho, but in practice what they're criminalizing is the person helping the minor,” Cohen, who also litigates abortion-related cases with the Women's Law Project nonprofit, told HuffPost.

State Rep. Barbara Ehardt (R), one of the sponsors of the abortion trafficking bill, said plainly that the intent of the legislation is to limit minors' ability to travel out of state without parental consent.

“It's already illegal to get an abortion here in the state of Idaho,” she told HuffPost. “So, it would be taking that child across the border, and if that happens without the permission of the parent, that's where we'll be able to hold accountable those that would subvert a parent's right.”

In the past, a bill like this would have been brushed aside as political fodder, never to become law. But Idaho has seen a [Christian white nationalist insurgency](#) in recent years, helping to create a legislature that's quickly gone down the far-right rabbit hole — including by introducing legislation that would [bring back firing squad executions](#), or make it a [crime punishable by life in prison](#) for a parent to get gender-affirming care for their transgender child.

“My colleagues are just rabid about denying all access to abortion care.”

- Idaho Senate Minority Leader Melissa Wintrow (D)

Since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June, the country has yet to find the floor on how extreme abortion restrictions can get — and [Republicans](#) in Idaho are actively testing the waters.

“The far right has an incremental plan. It's death by a thousand cuts on many things, but they're especially unrelenting on abortion,” Idaho Senate Minority Leader Melissa Wintrow (D) told HuffPost. “My colleagues are just rabid about denying all access to abortion care. It's really harmful to women, and it's harmful to our state.”

The abortion trafficking bill is rapidly advancing through the Legislature. It passed along party lines in the state House (57-12-1) earlier this month with less than 10 minutes of floor discussion. The final roadblock for the bill was the Senate State Affairs Committee, which on Monday agreed to hold a full Senate vote. A handful of amendments, which don't substantively change the bill, were added on Monday, meaning the bill will head back to the House for a full vote after the Senate vote takes place. It's extremely likely to pass in the Senate, where Republicans outnumber [Democrats](#) 4 to 1, and in the House, which has already passed the bill once. Gov. Brad Little (R), a devout anti-abortion advocate and the first governor to enact a copycat of Texas' infamous bounty hunter abortion restriction, is likely to sign the bill into law.

Wintrow is prepared to fight the legislation in the Senate, but she's only one of 18 Democrats in a Legislature of 105 members. She's not optimistic, despite being acutely aware of just how devastating a bill like this could be for minors, physicians and the greater health care system in Idaho.

“It feels terribly inevitable that this bill will pass,” said Wintrow, who has been teaching gender studies at Boise State University for over 20 years. “That's what we're facing. That's my fear. That's the pit in my stomach.”

Ehardt stressed to HuffPost that the bill is about parental rights.

“What we want to make sure of is that parents are the ones who are in charge of their children. Parents are the ones who need to be involved in helping to make these decisions,” she said.

“A parent absolutely still has the right to take their child across the border and get an abortion,” Ehardt added. “The parent still has the right to cede that power and authority to someone else, such as a grandparent or an aunt, to take that child, should they be pregnant, across the border and get an abortion.”



Senate Minority Leader Melissa Wintrow (D) said it's "terribly inevitable" that the abortion trafficking bill will pass into law.

via Associated Press

The language in the Idaho legislation is ripped nearly word for word from a [model law](#) published by the National Right to Life Committee, a leading anti-abortion group, just weeks before Roe fell. Idaho Right to Life, a state-level organization of National Right to Life, crafted the bill that Ehardt is leading through the Legislature.

What was once viewed as an extremist's dream agenda is now very real.

"This is the first of what will probably be many states that pass provisions like this because it does seem to be something that the movement wants, at least for minors. Whether they expand it to adults, too, we will see," Cohen said. "But at least for minors, this seems to be part of the blueprint. And Idaho is now the first state that's putting it into reality."

Missouri has had a [similar law](#) on the books since 2005, although Missouri's statute has a civil penalty. Idaho's goes farther with felony punishment and seeks to create an entirely new crime under the state's criminal code.

Most teenagers and adolescents voluntarily include at least one parent in abortion decisions. But for the minority of those who don't, it's often for good reason. [Studies show](#) that requiring parental involvement can increase the risk of harm or abuse, delay care and lead minors to seek out dangerous alternatives. The risk of abuse is especially acute for LGBTQ kids.

And [parental consent laws](#) are common. Currently, [36 states](#) require some kind of parental involvement for a minor to receive abortion care. Almost all of those states have a judicial bypass process that allows a minor to obtain approval from a court without alerting their parents, although this procedure is time-consuming and confusing, and it puts up many logistical barriers for young people who have few resources.

Idaho state Rep. Lauren Necochea (D) brought up this issue during the brief discussion on the House floor this month before the bill passed.

"There are cases where a minor might not feel safe telling their parents they need abortion care," she said. "It could be an abusive family situation. It could be any number of circumstances that make it feel unsafe for a 17-year-old to go to her parents, but maybe she has a big sister who can help her out," Necochea added, noting that the bill would prohibit a minor from talking to a sibling or other trusted relative about plans to obtain an abortion.

"The phrasing of this law is very strategically trying not to impede on the right to travel but focusing more on the state's right to interfere with young people's medical decisions."

- Rebecca Wang, legal support counsel at If/When/How

Several national health groups agree that a minor should not be required to involve their parents in decisions to obtain an abortion, [including](#) the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

But targeting minors is why such legislation works. They have fewer rights than adults in some situations, allowing lawmakers to litigate away critical health care for adolescents. (Just look at what Florida, Tennessee and a dozen or so other states are doing to gender-affirming care for trans youth.)

"It's a very creative way of getting around the legality of this," Rebecca Wang, legal support counsel at the reproductive justice nonprofit If/When/How, told HuffPost about the Idaho bill. "The phrasing of this law is very strategically trying not to impede on the right to travel but focusing more on the state's right to interfere with young people's medical decisions. I certainly see this as part of the trend of chipping away at the right to travel."

For her part, Ehardt said she took on this bill because of her passion for parental rights. She is not looking to limit any adult's ability to travel across state borders to get abortion care for themselves.

"I can't speak for what any organization or someone else may try to do, but as far as I'm concerned this is a way to handle parental rights," she said. "I am not interested in carrying legislation to try to restrict someone's ability, if they are pregnant and they are an adult, to go somewhere else [out of state]."

Similar to other abortion restrictions, the legality of the bill is suspect. And since people travel around Idaho and across state lines every day, it's unclear how it would be enforced. Between the legal jargon and constant confusion around abortion limitations, the legislation is likely to simply have a chilling effect.

“This is another one of those laws that seeks to create an atmosphere of not being able to trust the people around you. They [Republican lawmakers] are relying on a network of people around a person seeking care to potentially report them to authorities,” Wang said.

“The very real effect we will see is adults who are supportive of a young person’s right to get an abortion are going to be quite hesitant to offer that assistance, and be concerned that they might be prosecuted and go to jail as a result of this,” she added. “That’s concerning because young people, more than anybody, need additional community support to access services.”

Restricting anyone’s ability to travel looks and sounds unconstitutional. But in the U.S. — a country where the Supreme Court repealed nearly 50 years of precedent, lawmakers are vowing to surveil and prosecute pregnant people, and a lawsuit with no scientific basis is threatening access to medication widely used for abortion and miscarriage care — what’s constitutional or unconstitutional is up for debate.

“There is nothing clear about current Supreme Court case law that mandates the result that I think is right, which is that this is unconstitutional,” Cohen said. “And because it’s not clear from the case law, I think motivated judges are going to have the ability to decide one way or the other based on how they feel about abortion.”

In his concurring opinion for *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh did state that the right to interstate travel is still constitutionally protected. But since the abortion trafficking bill is crafted in a way that only pertains to travel inside Idaho, lawmakers may have found a loophole.

Rebecca Gibron, the CEO of a Seattle-based Planned Parenthood affiliate, told HuffPost that her organization will meet the legal battle wherever it is.

“This wouldn’t be the first time that the Idaho Legislature and the governor put bills into law that are unconstitutional. We have challenged them and won,” said Gibron, who heads Planned Parenthood Great Northwest, Hawaii, Alaska, Indiana, Kentucky.

“There’s no way this bill is constitutional, and if it’s passed there will absolutely be a legal battle. Idaho can bet on that.”

CORRECTION: This story has been amended to reflect that Missouri passed legislation similar to Idaho’s in 2005, though the Missouri law does not carry a criminal penalty.

cited in *Matsumoto v. Labrador*
No. 23-3787 archived November 22 & 25, 2024

trafficking

NOUN

Etymology

Summary

Formed within English, by derivation.

Etymons: **traffic** v., **-ing** suffix¹.

< **traffic** v. + **-ing** suffix¹.

Compare earlier **traffic** n.

Meaning & use

- 1.a.** Originally and in early use chiefly Scottish. The action of engaging in (typically clandestine) dealings or communication with another, later esp. an enemy or malevolent supernatural being; plotting, scheming; conspiracy. Also occasionally: an act or instance of this. 1567-
- In the late 16th and 17th cent. often with reference to Roman Catholic plotting against the state or established religion; cf. **traffic** v. 1.4a.i, **trafficking** adj. 1, and **trafficker** n. 2.

1567 His **traffiqueing** in the realme of France..and committand certane crymes in the samin.
in J. Beveridge & G. Donaldson, *Registrum Secreti Sigilli Regum Scotorum* (1963) vol. VI. 12/1

1630 That which incensed him most, was his correspondencie, and secret **trafficking** and meeting with the banished Douglasses.
D. Hume, *History of Houses of Douglas & Angus* (1644) ii. 262

1656 Their **trafficking** with forein Princes against Religion.
W. Sanderson, *Compl. Hist. Mary & James VI* ii. 175

1714 Being disturbed in our Religious Concerns, by the restless and intriguing **trafficking** of..Enemies of the Protestant Religion the Papists and their Abettors.
Daily Courant 3 November

1755 Bothwell..Accused of **trafficking** with witches.
in D. Moysie, *Mem. Affairs Scotland* Index

1816 The notorious revelation of her **trafficking** with fiends, and holding communion with the spirits of darkness.
Scots Magazine May 349/2



1826 Ye ken best what **trafeckin** has been between you and her.

J. Galt, *Last of Lairds* xxi. 189

1863 Thus the antagonism went on, irritating Elizabeth..into dangerous **traffickings** with the Bishop of Aquila and his successor.

J. A. Froude, *History of England* vol. VIII. viii. 132

1919 A woman has been arrested in Paris on a charge of **trafficking** with the enemy. She..is alleged to have been on intimate terms with Hun officers.

Daily Mail 15 March 5/6

1992 Many confessed to the sin of **trafficking** with the Devil when the only alternative was to be hanged.

M. Blakesley in A. Miller, *Crucible* Introduction p. x

Scottish English

1.b. † *Scottish*. The process of arranging or negotiating something, probably in the context of private communication or secretive dealings. Cf. **traffic** v. I.4a.ii. *Obsolete. rare.*

a1649

Apparently an isolated use.

a1649 The main business about which the Arch-bishop came was the **trafficking** of a Marriage between Lewis the Daulphine..with Margaret Daughter to King James.

W. Drummond, *History Scotland* (1654) v.

Scottish English

cited in *Manusmole v. Labrador*
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2. The action of **traffic** v. in various other senses; (in early use chiefly) the activity of engaging in trade; buying and selling; commerce; (later chiefly) illegal or illicit trade or dealing, *esp.* the distribution and sale of illegal drugs, or the trade in or procurement of human beings, typically for the purpose of exploitation. Also occasionally: an instance of this.

1570-

Also with modifying word; see also **child trafficking** n., **dope-trafficking** n. **human trafficking** n., **sex trafficking** n., etc.

From the late 19th and early 20th cent. used increasingly to denote illicit trade in goods or people, and gaining currency from the 1970s.

1570 We haue this winter..bene kept from **trafiquing**, to the companies great losse.

C. Hodson & W. Borough, *Letter* 15 July in R. Hakluyt, *Principall Navigations* (1589) ii. 426

1630 By continuall **trafficking** with..Poland, and all the Easterne Countries,..they grow very wealthy.

translation of G. Botero, *Relations of Famous Kingdomes World* (revised edition) ii. 294

1656 We conceive it [*sc.* prayer] is a sweet travelling and **trafficking** of the soul betwixt emptinesse and fulnesse.; or in short, it is a souls conference with God.

A. Gray, *Direct. Duty of Prayer* (1669) i. 17



- 1674** See that you are..faithful to your Promises in all your Tradings, Traffickings, Bargainings.
G. Fox, Line of Righteousness & Justice 10
- 1793** May the inhuman practice of trafficking for human flesh be speedily abolished.
M. Harley, Juliana Ormeston vol. I. v. 28
- 1879** A bartering and trafficking in public interests for personal ends.
Scotsman 26 November 7/2
- 1896** Between [convicts and certain of their custodians]..there is a constant commerce in contraband commodities, which is known in prison parlance by the term 'trafficking'.
Age (Melbourne) 8 March 13/1
- 1919** Inspectors..will..prevent illicit excavations and trafficking in objects of antiquity.
Near East 19 December 697/2
- 1946** More families..wish to adopt children; therefore, baby trafficking has resulted.
Times of India 16 December 1/4
- 1989** The U.S. military..involved in fighting the production and trafficking in drugs from Latin America.
D. J. Mabry, Latin Amer. Narcotics Trade vi. 75
- 1994** Wardens say wildlife trafficking is increasingly well organized and often connected with narcotics and weapons dealing.
Los Angeles Times 29 January b3/4
- 2013** The accused..deny 47 counts that include rape, trafficking and organising prostitution of underage girls.
Independent 27 March 11/1

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economics and commerce

3. Cell Biology and Physiology. The movement or transportation of molecules, ions, cells (esp. leucocytes), etc., across membranes, between cells or tissues, or to a particular location within a cell or organ. Cf. **traffic** v. II.7a, II.7b.

1936-

- 1936** The trafficking between the internal environment and the external environment is dynamically structural and supplies the energies which activate the organism.
Proceedings of American Philosophical Society vol. 76 115
- 1970** This constant trafficking would suit the memory cell population's purpose of being available to meet old antigens wherever macrophages might find and hold antigen in lymphoid tissue.
J. E. Harris & J. G. Sinkovics, Immunology of Malignant Disease i. 15
- 1989** Transgenic mice represent a valuable system for analysing trafficking pathways and sorting mechanisms of secretory proteins in vivo.
Journal Cell Biology vol. 109 3231/2



2012 Regulated **trafficking** of proteins, RNAs, RNA-protein complexes, and other molecules into and out of the nucleus is important in diverse processes.
Plant Physiology vol. 158 24/2

cell biology physiology

Pronunciation

BRITISH ENGLISH

/'traʃɪkɪŋ/ 

TRAFF-uh-king

U.S. ENGLISH

/'træfɪkɪŋ/ 

TRAFF-i-king

Pronunciation keys ▼

Forms

Variant forms

See **traffic** *v.* and **-ing** *suffix*¹

Also *Scottish*

pre-1700	traffiqueing
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Frequency

trafficking typically occurs about once per million words in modern written English.

trafficking is in frequency band 5, which contains words occurring between 1 and 10 times per million words in modern written English. More about OED's frequency bands

Frequency data is computed programmatically, and should be regarded as an estimate.

Frequency of *trafficking, n.*, 1750–2010

 Occurrences per million words in written English

Historical frequency series are derived from Google Books Ngrams (version 2), a data set based on the Google Books corpus of several million books printed in English between 1500 and 2010.

The overall frequency for a given word is calculated by summing frequencies for the main form of the word, any plural or inflected forms, and any major spelling variations.

For sets of homographs (distinct entries that share the same word-form, e.g. *mole*, n.¹, *mole*, n.², *mole*, n.³, etc.), we have estimated the frequency of each homograph entry as a fraction of the total Ngrams frequency for the word-form. This may result in inaccuracies.

Smoothing has been applied to series for lower-frequency words, using a moving-average algorithm. This reduces short-term fluctuations, which may be produced by variability in the content of the Google Books corpus.

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Frequency of *trafficking, n.*, 2017–2023

* Occurrences per million words in written English



Modern frequency series are derived from a corpus of 20 billion words, covering the period from 2017 to the present. The corpus is mainly compiled from online news sources, and covers all major varieties of World English.

Compounds & derived words

Sort by

child trafficking, n. 1887-

Trade in or procurement of children for the purposes of exploitation; the action or practice of illicitly, forcibly, or fraudulently relocating...

human trafficking, n. 1904-

The action or practice (esp. as an organized criminal activity) of subjecting people to forcible relocation or coercion in order to benefit from...

drug trafficking, n. & adj. 1912-

a. n. The smuggling, distribution, and sale of illegal drugs; b. adj. involved in the smuggling, distribution, and sale of illegal drugs.

sex trafficking, n. 1913-

The action or practice of coercing people into prostitution, pornography, or other forms of commercial sexual exploitation, usually involving illegal...

trafficking ring, n. 1927-

An organization or network of people engaged in illegal or illicit trade or dealing, esp. the distribution and sale of illegal drugs, or the trade in...

dope-trafficking, n. 1933-

people trafficking, n. 1977-

The action or practice of illegally or forcibly relocating people from one country or area to another, typically in order to exploit them for forced...



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Legal

Definition

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trafficking noun

traffick-ing

: the act of buying or selling usually illegal goods

drug trafficking

→ see also HUMAN TRAFFICKING, LABOR TRAFFICKING, SEX TRAFFICKING



Dictionary Entries Near trafficking

traffic court

trafficking

tranche

See More Nearby Entries

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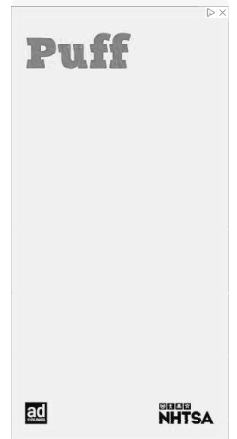
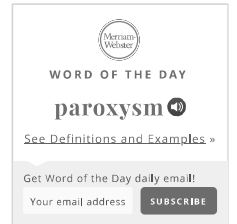
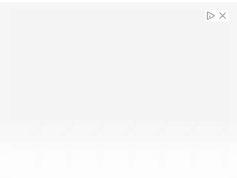
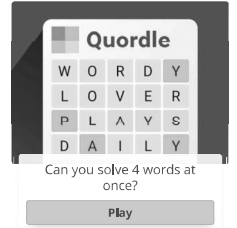
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Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for trafficking
Nglsh: Translation of trafficking for Spanish Speakers

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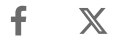
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Meaning of **trafficking** in English



trafficking

noun [U]

US /'træf.i.kɪŋ/ UK /'træf.i.kɪŋ/

Add to word list

the act of buying or selling goods illegally:

- **arms/drug trafficking**
- *He was wanted on charges of trafficking **in** stolen property.*

+

the act of buying or selling people, or of making money from work they are forced to do, such as sex work:

- **human/people trafficking**
- *efforts to combat illegal trafficking **in** people*

See

[traffic](#)

— Fewer examples

- *Military personnel determined that the plane had been used for narcotics trafficking.*
- *This scandal shows how arms trafficking has grown over the past decade.*
- *One problem is the huge amount of trafficking in stolen oil.*
- *Heroin trafficking is a major source of funding for the terrorists.*
- *An investigation has been launched into possible child trafficking.*
- *He announced a new task force, created to combat human trafficking and slavery.*
- *They were involved in money laundering and trafficking in young girls.*

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(Definition of **trafficking** from the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus © Cambridge University Press)

trafficking | BUSINESS ENGLISH

trafficking

noun [U]

UK /'træfɪkɪŋ/ US

Add to word list

the activity of buying and selling goods or people illegally:

- *The government has undertaken a massive drive against drug trafficking.*
- *The prosecution of individuals involved in **human trafficking** is a top priority of the Justice Department.*

(Definition of **trafficking** from the Cambridge Business English Dictionary © Cambridge University Press)

What is the pronunciation of *trafficking*?

Translations of **trafficking**

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in Chinese (Traditional)

非法買賣, 人口販運...

See more

in Chinese (Simplified)

非法买卖, 人口贩卖...

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traffic separation scheme BEIA

traffic warden

trafficked

trafficker

trafficking

tragedy

tragic

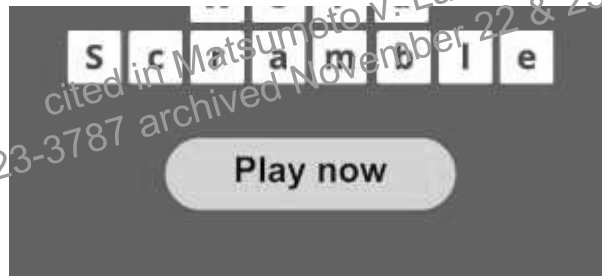
tragically

tragicomedy

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More meanings of *trafficking*

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people trafficking, at [human trafficking](#)

human trafficking, at [people trafficking](#)

[See all meanings](#)

+ Phrasal Verbs



harbour | harbor

VERB

Etymology

Summary

Formed within English, by conversion.

Etymon: **harbour** *n.*¹

< **harbour** *n.*¹, in its various phonetic forms < **Old English** type **herebeorgian*, corresponding to **Old Norse** *herbergja*, *-byrgja*, to lodge, harbour; **Old High German** *heribergôn*, **Middle High German**, **Middle Dutch**, **German**, **Dutch** *herbergen* intransitive and transitive. Compare also *herberge*, early form of **harbinger** *v.*, < **Old French** *herberger* (which was ultimately the same word).

Meaning & use

I. *transitive*.

I.1. †

- I.1.a. To provide a lodging or lodging-place for; to shelter from the weather or the night; to lodge, entertain. *Obsolete*.

Old English-1671

a forms

- OE** Swa swa leofne gyst heo hire husede and innlice herebyreȝode.
Homily in Kluge, Leseb. 73
- c1175** Pu..fedest wreche men and herebureȝest and scrudest.
Lambeth Homilies 23
- c1290** To hereborewi Miseise men.
South English Legendary vol. I. 260/146
- 1340** Ine zuo poure house yherberȝed.
Ayenbite (1866) 130
- c1380** Clope..and herberwe hem.
J. Wyclif, Select English Works vol. III. 201
- c1380** Pere he schal be hereberowid.
J. Wyclif, Select English Works vol. III. 317



- 1393** Ich was yherborwed with an hep of chapmen.
W. Langland, *Piers Plowman* C. vii. 235
- c1440** Herberwyn [*variant readings* herbergwyn, herborowen] or receyvyn to hereboroghe.
Promptorium Parvulorum 236/1
- 1530-1** To lodge and herberough any persone..of charitee or almes.
Act 22 Henry VIII c. 12
- 1542** We haue not hymselfe now..to herbrough him.
R. Taverner, *Epist. & Gospelles* (new edition) f. cxxvi^v
- c1580** Herberowe vs to night.
Merye Hist. Mylner Abyngton (new edition) sig. A.iv^v

β forms

- c1384** Symound, that is named Petre; this is herborid in the hous of Symound coriour.
Bible (Wycliffite, early version) (Douce MS. 369(2)) (1850) Deeds x. 32
- α1400** To spek o iesu þar he was herberd in þat tun.
(α1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vespasian MS.) l. 15494
- c1400** Bot mete ne drynke couthe he gete none. No house to herbere hyme inne.
Isumbras 524
- α1510** Ȝe sall nocht herdere me and Eis at anes.
G. Douglas, *King Hart* ii. 264
- 1609** Nan man be herbered or lodged in the houses or granges.
J. Skene, translation of *Stat. Robert I* in *Regiam Majestatem* 20

γ forms

- c1450** To harbergh the nedy wagring.
Mirour Saluacioun 1252
- α1500** I wold harburrow the full fayne.
(?α1400) *Sir Torrent of Portyngale* (1887) l. 262
- 1530** I intende to harborowe folkes no more.
J. Palsgrave, *Lesclarcissement* 579/1
- 1565** Tethis whoo dooth harbrowgh mee within her sources wyde.
A. Golding, translation of Ovid, *Fyrst Fower Bookes of Metamorphosis* ii. f. 2
- 1587** To al them that harborough such a guest.
Sivqila in Polimanteia (1881) Introduction 18

δ forms



- c1440** He **harberde** hym far therfro All behynde men..Hys sekene was so felle.
Bone Flor. 1971
- 1557** Those [children] that are **harboured** in the Howse.
Ord. Hospitalls E ij
- a1616** She **harbors** you as her kinsman.
W. Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night* (1623) ii. iii. 92

figurative

- 1630** Which would willingly **harbour** themselues, vnder the roofe..of the Church of England.
W. Prynne, *Anti-Arminianisme* 1
- 1671** The anguish of my Soul, that suffers not Mine eie to **harbour** sleep.
J. Milton, *Samson Agonistes* 459

1.1.b. absol. To show hospitality.

1534

- 1534** Diligently to **harboure** [1535 Coverdale Be glad to harbarow. 1539 (Great Bible), Be readie to harboure.]
Bible (Tyndale rev. Joye) Romans xii. 13

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1.2. † To quarter (soldiers or retainers); to assign lodgings to, to billet; *reflexive* to take up quarters, encamp. Also *absol.* *Obsolete.*

c1330-1648

- c1330** Nouper cite ne burgh myght þei in **herberd** be.
R. Mannyng, *Chronicle* (1810) 149
- a1375** Alle þe genge of grece was gayli resseyued, & **herbarwed** hastily.
(c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) l. 1626
- a1475** The marshalle shalle **herber** alle men in fere.
Boke of Curtasye (Sloane MS. 1986) l. 427 in *Babees Book* (2002) i. 312
- 1480** They comen..in grete companyes and lodged and **herburghed** hem in the countrey al aboute where they wold.
W. Caxton, *Chronicles of England* cii. 83
- a1483** Within the kinges gates no man shall **harborow** or assigne but this chamberlayn or usher.
Liber Niger in *Collection of Ordinances Royal Household* (1790) 32
- 1523** They..layde siege about Monsac, and **harbored** themselfe, as though they wolde nat go thence in a moneth.
Lord Berners, translation of J. Froissart, *Cronycles* vol. I. cclvi. 381



1648 [We] were..harboured in a green plot of ground resembling a meadow.
T. Gage, *English-American* 90

military

I.3.a. To give shelter to, to shelter. Formerly often in a good sense: to keep in safety or security, to protect; now mostly dyslogistic, as to conceal or give covert to noxious animals or vermin; to give secret or clandestine entertainment to noxious persons or offenders against the laws. Also *absol.* **?a1366-**

a forms

- ?a1366** The gardin was not daungerous To herberwe briddes many oon.
Romaunt Rose 491
- 1393** Ordeyne þe an hous, peers, to herberghen in thi cornes.
W. Langland, *Piers Plowman* C. xxii. 320
- c1430** This scauberk is cleped humilitee..in whiche thow shuldest thi swerd herberwe.
Pilgrimage of Lyf of Manhode (1869) i. cxxv. 66
- 1484** The swalowe..herberowed her in the plowgh mans hows.
W. Caxton, translation of *Subtyl Historyes & Fables of Esope*

β forms

- 1420** Yt lette noght William Selby to herber hys tymber apou the same walle.
Surtees Misc. (1888) 17
- 1486** Ye shall say thus: An hert Herbourghith.
Boke St. Albans F vij b
- c1503** Yf any freman..suffer ony wares or marchaundises..to be kepte or herbowryd in his house.
R. Arnold, *Chronicle* f. xxix/2

γ forms

- 1579** To harbarough the persecuted Christians in your owne kingdome.
J. Stubbs, *Discoverie of Gaping Gulf* sig. B6^v

δ forms

- c1460** Y swere..Y wylle neuyr harbur the kyngys felone.
How Marchande dyd Wyfe betray 148 in W. C. Hazlitt, *Remains of Early Popular Poetry of England* vol. I. 201



- 1472** Oone panyermaker..harbers suspect persones in his hous.
Presentm. Juries in Surtees Misc. (1888) 25
- 1576** Ignoraunt what lewdnes lurketh, and what heynousnesse is harboured in the deedes they go about.
A. Fleming, translation of Isocrates in *Panoplie of Epistles* 180
- 1633** Traitours, which harboured themselues in the bogs and woods.
T. Stafford, *Pacata Hibernia* i. xviii. 108
- 1659** I would have Captains to say that our ships shal harbour no such Sailors.
D. Pell, *Πελαγος* 106 (note)
- 1700** These Woods harbour vast numbers of Monkeys.
S. L., translation of C. Frick, *Relation Voy.* in translation of C. Frick & C. Schweitzer *Relation of Two Voyages East-Indies* 44
- 1711** He wishes Sir Roger does not harbour a Jesuit in his House.
J. Addison, *Spectator* No. 131. ¶5
- 1759** Dung harbours insects.
J. Mills, translation of H. L. Duhamel du Monceau, *Practical Treatise of Husbandry* i. vi. 12
- 1849** After the conviction of the rebels whom she had harboured.
T. B. Macaulay, *History of England* vol. I. 641
- 1851** Cocoa-nut fibre..does not harbour vermin.
Official Descriptive & Illustrated Catalogue of Great Exhibition vol. III. 780
- 1898** *Mod. Newsp.* A tobaccoist was fined £100 for harboring smuggled tobacco.
New English Dictionary (OED first edition) at Harbour

figurative

- 1650** It is a dangerous thing to harbor a Traytor within your brest.
T. Hubbert, *Pilula* 15
- 1819** What religion can it be that harbours such a villain?
W. Scott, *Ivanhoe* vol. II. x. 173
- 1842** Harboring every vagrant story that may ask shelter in his pages.
H. Rogers, *Essays* vol. I. i. 33

I.3.b. † Of a place, etc.: To afford accommodation or room for; to contain, hold. *Obsolete.*

1362-1680

- 1362** Bote þer nas halle ne hous þat miht herborwe þe peple.
W. Langland, *Piers Plowman* A. ii. 40
- 1398** The mydle moder beclyppyth the brayne and herboryth and holdeth togyders the veynes of the brayne.
J. Trevisa, translation of Bartholomew de Glanville, *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (1495) v. iii. 106



- c1440** It [a horn spoon] will herbar fourty pese.
York Mysteries xv. 125
- 1587** That there is but one God, and that The Ayre, The Heauen, the Sea, the Earth, and Hell..were harbored in his breast from all eternitie.
Sir P. Sidney & A. Golding, translation of P. de Mornay, *Trewnesse of Christian Religion* ix. 131
- 1667** The specifick actions of a Body that harbours subordinate Forms.
R. Boyle, *Origine of Formes & Qualities* (ed. 2)
- 1680** The Aeriall particles, that are wont to be harboured in the Pores of that liquor.
R. Boyle, *Exper. & Notes Producibleness Chymicall Princ.* v. 240 in *Sceptical Chymist* (new edition)

I.4.a. *figurative.* To entertain within the breast; to cherish privately; to indulge. Now usually in reference to evil thoughts or designs.

1393-

- 1393** In þyn hole herte to herberghwen alle treuthe.
W. Langland, *Piers Plowman* C. viii. 258
- 1576** O heart appointed even from thy creation to harbour kindenesse.
A. Fleming, translation of Erasmus in *Panoplie of Epistles* 337
- 1582** Such festred rancoure doo Sayncts celestial harbour?
R. Stanyhurst, translation of Virgil, *First Fourte Bookes Aeneis*. 4
- 1601** The citizens..harboring their old grudge.
F. Godwin, *Catalogue of Bishops of England* 353
- 1602** I know that beauteous wenches are enclinde, To harbour hansome men within their minde.
S. Rowlands, *Tis Merrie* 20
- 1766** They will be tempted to harbour suspicions.
J. Fordyce, *Sermons to Young Women* vol. I. iii. 109
- 1782** Hearts..that harbour at this hour, That love of Christ and all its quick'ning pow'r.
W. Cowper, *Conversation in Poems* 240
- 1840** It was impossible for him to harbour resentment.
W. Irving, *Oliver Goldsmith* vol. I. 19
- 1849** He believed them to harbour the worst designs.
T. B. Macaulay, *History of England* vol. II. 70

I.4.b. In *passive.* Of a devil or evil spirit: to be lodged in or take possession of (a person).

a1200-



a1200 Seuen awergedede gostes ware on hire **geherberegedede**.
MS Trinity Cambridge in R. Morris, Old English Homilies (1873) 2nd Series 143

I.5. To shelter (a ship) in a haven or harbour.

1555-

- 1555** Naturall hauens, of capacitie to **harborowe** greate nauies of shippes.
R. Eden, translation of Peter Martyr of Angleria, Decades of Newe Worlde i. i. f. 2
- 1600** A faire haven, where the ships of Alger are safely **harboured**.
J. Pory, translation of J. Leo Africanus, Geographical Historie of Africa ii. 232
- 1633** **Harbour** my fleshly bark safe in thy wounded side.
P. Fletcher, Purple Island xii. lii. 171
- 1693** Directions..how to **Harbour** a Ship in the same with Safety.
London Gazette No. 2849/4
- 1887** I.. **Harboured** his vessels, saved from death his mariner band.
C. Bowen, translation of Virgil, Æneid iv, in translation of Virgil in English Verse 202

nautical

I.6. To trace (a stag) to his 'harbour' or fair. Also transferred.

1531-

- 1531** A few nombre of houndes, onely to **harborowe**, or rouse, the game.
T. Elyot, Boke named Governour i. xviii. sig. Jvii
- 1575** We **Herbor** and Unherbor a Harte..we lodge & rowse a Bucke.
G. Gascoigne, Noble Arte of Venerie lxxix. 239
- a1637** Here's Little Iohn hath **harbord** you a Deere.
B. Jonson, Sad Shepherd i. ii. 9 in Workes (1640) vol. III
- 1736** In **Harbouring** the Hart, the Huntsman or Harbinger must..put his Hound before him, and beat the Outside of the Springs or Thicket.
Complete Family-piece ii. i. 209
- 1886** A..tigress had been tracked..and at last '**harboured**', as Stag-hunters say, in a small thicket.
Wood in Good Words 690
- 1892** I can **harbour** a stag against any man on Exmoor.
H. G. Hutchinson, Fairway Island 6

hunting



ii. *intransitive*.

ii.7. To shelter oneself, lodge, take shelter; to encamp; later, often with some notion of lurking or concealment. *archaic* or *Obsolete*.

c1200-

- c1200** ȝif he mai þer-inne herbergen.
Trinity College Homilies 87
- 1303** Lete hym herber yn hys hous.
R. Mannyng, *Handlyng Synne* 10290
- c1374** Wont to sleen hys gestes þat herburghden in hys hous.
G. Chaucer, translation of Boethius, *De Consolatione Philosophiae* ii. pr. vi. 53
- c1380** Thar herborghede þe king & ys barouns, Wyp-oute tentes oþer pauyllouns.
Sir Ferumbras (1879) l. 5251
- c1400** Vnder a Mountayne þey herberde þan Besyde a reuer.
Rowland & Otuel 745
- a1500** Ye sholde not fynde an house in-to herberowe.
(?c1450) *Merlin* viii. 125
- a1616** Now for this Night, let's harbor here in Yorke.
W. Shakespeare, *Henry VI, Part 3* (1623) iv. viii. 78
- 1686** Others say that the Robbers themselves harboured here.
R. Plot, *Natural History Staffordshire* x. 448
- a1763** Beneath one common roof Thou ne'er shalt harbour.
W. Shenstone, *Oeconomy i*, in *Works in Verse & Prose* (1764) vol. i. 287
- 1805** Where the Dove and Olive-Bough Once hung, a Poet harbours now.
W. Wordsworth, *Waggoner* i. 59
- 1807** I was suspicious that possibly some party of Indians might be harboring round.
Z. M. Pike, *Account of Expeditions to Sources of Mississippi* (1810) ii. 200

figurative

- 1569** But nowe this plague..doth not onely herberoughe emonge temporall men.
J. Sanford, translation of H. C. Agrippa, *Of Vanitie Artes & Sciences* 105 b
- a1593** Thinke not a thought so villanous Can harbor in a man of noble birth.
C. Marlowe, *Edward II* (1594) sig. 14^v
- 1595** Neither sleepe nor quiet could harber in her head.
Blanchardine & Eglantine liv. 207
- 1655** Scare any of us (answered he) ever suffer such a thought to harbour in our minds.
translation of C. Sorel, *Comical History of Francion* ii. 33



- 1760** No vice can harbor in you.
W. Law, *Spirit of Prayer* ii. 161
- 1796** If envy could have harboured in such a breast as Sophia's.
History of Ned Evans vol. I. 266

archaic

II.8. Of an animal: To have its retreat or resort; *spec.* said of a stag.

1599-

- 1599** It is a Seafish..It harboureth some time about the shore.
H. Buttes, *Dyets Dry Dinner* sig. M8
- 1613** Penguin..cannot flie,..feeds on fish and grasse, and harbors in berries.
S. Purchas, *Pilgrimage* 862
- 1632** You shall say that a Hart Harboureth.
Guillim's Display of Heraldrie (ed. 2) iii. xiv. 176
- 1650** Here the bellowing Harts are said to harbour..the belling Roes to bed.
T. Fuller, *Pisgah-sight of Palestine* iii. 338
- 1790** The place where the turtle were known to harbour.
Collection of Voyages round World vol. V. x. 1681
- 1869** In the woody parts wild boars frequently harboured.
J. Phillips, *Vesuvius* iii. 46

animals

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II.9.a. Of a ship (or its crew): To take shelter or come to anchor in a haven or harbour. Also *figurative*.

1582-

- 1582** Wee saulflye dyd harbor in hauen.
R. Stanyhurst, translation of Virgil, *First Foure Bookes Æneis* iii. 47
- 1616** To shew what Coast thy sluggish care Might'st easilest harbour in.
W. Shakespeare, *Cymbeline* (1623) iv. ii. 207
- 1642** He might have Harbour'd in Falmouth.
W. Monson, *Naval Tracts* (1704) iii. 331/2
- 1718** Wind was Contrary that was forc't to harbour at Marblehead.
S. Sewall, *Diary* 12 May (1973) vol. II. 895
- 1842** We were sailing by Triest, Where a day or two we harboured.
R. Browning, *Waring in Bells & Pomegranates No. III: Dramatic Lyrics* 11/2

nautical



II.9.b. Of tanks, military forces, etc.: to shelter; to halt for the night. Cf. senses II.7, II.9.

1935-

- 1935 The aeroplane cannot hit a moving tank with a bomb, but when the tanks harbour, the aircraft will make every effort to locate and bomb them... The bombing of tanks in harbour will cause immediate dispersion.
Journal Royal United Service Inst. November 747
- 1948 *Harbour*, halting place for the night for guns and tanks. Also a verb.
E. Partridge et al., *Dictionary of Forces' Slang* 91
- 1956 That night our leading troops harboured two hundred and forty miles from Rangoon.
W. Slim, *Defeat into Victory* 498

military

Pronunciation

BRITISH ENGLISH

U.S. ENGLISH

/ˈhɑːbəl/ 

/ˈhɑrbər/ 

HAR-buh

HAR-buhr

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Pronunciation keys ▼

Forms

Variant forms

α.
Middle English **hereburezen**, **herborzen**, Middle English **herber(e)zen**, **hereborwen**, Middle English **herberwen**, **herborwen**, Middle English **herberghen**, **herborghen**, **herbarwen**, **herbweren**, Middle English **herberghwen**, **herberewen**, Middle English–1500s **herberowe(n)**, Middle English **hereboroghe**, **herbourgh**, **herburghe**, **herberowe**, Middle English–1500s **herborowe**, 1500s **herberoughe**, **herbrough**.

β.
Middle English–1600s **herber(e)n**, Middle English **herbor**, Middle English **herbar**, 1500s **herbowr(e)**.

γ.
Middle English–1500s **harborough**, Middle English **harbergh**, **harberough**, **harburrow**, **harbourrow**, Middle English–1500s **harborowe**, 1500s **harbarow**, **harbrough**.



English **harbur**, Middle English–1500s **harber**, 1500s **harbar**, 1500s– **harbor**, **harbour**. See also

herbery, **harbry** v..

Frequency

harbour typically occurs about six times per million words in modern written English.

harbour is in frequency band 5, which contains words occurring between 1 and 10 times per million words in modern written English. More about OED's frequency bands

Frequency data is computed programmatically, and should be regarded as an estimate.

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Frequency of *harbour* | *harbor*, v., 1750–2010

* Occurrences per million words in written English

Historical frequency series are derived from Google Books Ngrams (version 2), a data set based on the Google Books corpus of several million books printed in English between 1500 and 2010.

The overall frequency for a given word is calculated by summing frequencies for the main form of the word, any plural or inflected forms and any major spelling variations.

For sets of homographs (distinct entries that share the same word-form, e.g. *mole*, n.¹, *mole*, n.², *mole*, n.³, etc.), we have estimated the frequency of each homograph entry as a fraction of the total Ngrams frequency for the word-form. This may result in inaccuracies.

Smoothing has been applied to series for lower-frequency words, using a moving-average algorithm. This reduces short-term fluctuations, which may be produced by variability in the content of the Google Books corpus.

Frequency of *harbour* | *harbor*, v., 2017–2023

* Occurrences per million words in written English



Modern frequency series are derived from a corpus of 20 billion words, covering the period from 2017 to the present. The corpus is mainly compiled from online news sources, and covers all major varieties of World English.

Smoothing has been applied to series for lower-frequency words, using a moving-average algorithm. This reduces short-term fluctuations, which may be produced by variability in the content of the corpus.

Compounds & derived words

Sort by

harbouring, n. c1384-

The action of harbour, v., in various senses.

harboured, adj. a1425-

harbry, v. c1480-1609

transitive. To shelter, lodge: = harbour, v. I.1.

harbourer, n. 1548-

One who harbours, shelters, or entertains; an entertainer, a host. Also figurative. Now more usually dyslogistic.

upharbour, v. 1563-

transitive.

unharbour, v. 1575-

transitive. To dislodge (a deer) from covert or shelter.

enharbour, v. 1596-

transitive. To dwell in, as in a harbour.

unharborough, v. 1611

unharbour, v.



harbouring, adj. 1743-

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Puff

ad NHTSA

harbor 1 of 2 noun

har·bor ('här-bər)

plural harbors

Synonyms of harbor >

- 1** : a place of security and comfort : **REFUGE**
 | the ... Loyalists found *harbor* in the same areas
 | – W. G. Hardy
- 2** : a part of a body of water protected and deep enough to furnish anchorage
 | a yacht *harbor*
 | especially : one with port facilities

harborful ('här-bər-fu) noun

harborless ('här-bər-ləs) adjective

harbor 2 of 2 verb

harbored; harboring ('här-b(ə)-rɪŋ) ; **harbors**

transitive verb

- 1 a** : to give shelter or refuge to
 | *harboring* a fugitive
- b** : to be the home or habitat of
 | The ledges still *harbor* rattlesnakes.



Discover and protect APIs with an automated positive security model.

OPEN >

- 2** : to hold especially persistently in the mind : **CHERISH**
 | *harbored* a grudge

intransitive verb

- 1** : to take shelter in or as if in a harbor
 | ships *harboring* in the bay
- 2** : **LIVE**
 | parasites that *harbor* in the blood

harborer ('här-bər-ər) noun

To put it bluntly:
Don't drive high.



ad NHTSA

Quordle

W	O	R	D	Y
L	O	V	E	R
P	L	A	Y	S
D	A	I	L	Y

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chastise 

[See Definitions and Examples »](#)

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noun 2

Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Entry Search Show More

Synonyms

Noun

anchorage harborage haven
port

Verb

bear cherish entertain
have hold nurse

See all Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus >

Examples of harbor in a Sentence

Noun

the tanker stayed in Boston **harbor** three days to undergo repairs

seeking a **harbor** from the drenching rain, we unfortunately chose a bank where a robbery was taking place

Verb

See More
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Recent Examples on the Web

Examples are automatically compiled from online sources to show current usage. [Read More](#)

Noun

Remain in port, seek safe **harbor**, alter course, and/or secure the vessel for severe conditions.

– Gordon G. Chang, *Newsweek*, 1 Nov. 2024

The atypical wind direction can pose a specific risk for boats and maritime infrastructure, as **harbors** that are usually well protected on the leeward side of the Channel Islands are suddenly exposed to forceful gusts and waves.

– Ned Kleiner, *Los Angeles Times*, 27 Oct. 2024

Verb

But discoveries of ocean worlds on Saturn's Enceladus and Jupiter's Europa, both of which have spouted similar-looking plumes, have made scientists cautiously hopeful that the Neptunian moon could also be **harboring** a sodden secret.

– Shi En Kim, *Smithsonian Magazine*, 5 Nov. 2024

Meanwhile, his song drew sharp criticism from the left, with critics accusing Anthony of punching down and **harboring** racist sentiments.

– Charisma Madarang, *Rolling Stone*, 30 Oct. 2024

See all Example Sentences for harbor >



noun 2 ▾

Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Entry ▾ Show More ▾

Word History

Etymology

Noun

Middle English *herberwe*, *herberowe*, *herbour*, *harborow* "quarters, lodgings, field camp of an army, shelter for a traveler," going back to Old English *herebeorg* "shelter, lodgings," going back to Germanic **haribergō-* (whence also Old Frisian *herberge* "lodging, inn," Old Saxon *heriberga* "army camp," Old High German *heriberga*, *herberga* "army camp, lodging for a traveler, accommodations," Old Norse *herbergi* "inn, room"), from **harja-* "body of armed men" + **-bergō-* "shelter, protection," noun derivative from the base of **bergan-* "to keep safe" (whence Old English *beorgan* [strong verb class III] "to protect, defend, preserve," Old Saxon *giberган* "to protect," Old High German *bergan* "to save, preserve, conceal," Old Norse *bjarga* "to save," Gothic *bairgan* "to keep, preserve"), going back to dialectal Indo-European **b^herǵh-*, whence also Old Church Slavic *nebrěgo*, *nebrěšti* "to disregard, neglect," Czech *brh* "hayrick, cave, hut" (from **b^hirǵū*), Czech *brah* "hayrick," Polish *bróg* "hayrick, barn for hay" (from **b^hirǵū*), Lithuanian *birginis* "to be sparing, not spend much," Old Irish *comhairce* "protection, refuge" (from **b^hirǵh-īDe-*) — more at HARRY

NOTE: Middle English forms such as *herboru* and *harborow* appear to show assimilation of the second element of the compound to variants of *burgh* "town, fortified dwelling" (see BOROUGH). — Germanic **bergan-* has been associated with **berga-* "hill, mountain" (see BARROW entry 1), on the assumption that a high place would be a place of refuge, though the Indo-European base underlying **berga-* is **b^herǵh-*, not **b^hirǵh-*. An etymon *b^herǵh-*, however, would rule out the clearly related Balto-Slavic forms, which do not have a palatovelar stop. The link could only be maintained if the Balto-Slavic base was borrowed from Germanic, but the full display of ablaut and diversification of meaning in Slavic make borrowing unlikely.

Verb

Middle English *herberwen*, *herborewen* "to lodge, give shelter to," going back to Old English *herebeorgian*, going back to Germanic **haribergōjan-* (whence also Middle Dutch *herbergen* "to provide shelter for," Old High German *heribergōn* "to set up quarters for an army, stay as a guest," Old Norse *herbergja* "to shelter [a person], lodge"), derivative of **haribergō-* "shelter for an armed force" — more at HARBOR entry 1

First Known Use

Noun

12th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1

Verb

12th century, in the meaning defined at transitive sense 1a

Time Traveler

The first known use of *harbor* was in the 12th century

See more words from the same century



noun 2

Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Entries Show More

harbor seal

Dictionary Entries Near *harbor*

harbinger-of-spring

harbor

harborage

See More Nearby Entries >

Cite this Entry

Style

"Harbor." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/harbor>. Accessed 25 Nov. 2024.

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Kids Definition

harbor 1 of 2 noun

har·bor ('här-bər)

1 : a place of safety and comfort : REFUGE

2 : a part of a body of water protected and deep enough to be a place of safety for ships : PORT

harborless (-ləs) adjective

harbor 2 of 2 verb

harbored; harboring (-b(e-)rɪŋ)

1 : to give shelter to
| harbor an escaped convict

2 : to hold a thought or feeling of
| harbor a grudge

3 : to take shelter in or as if in a harbor



noun 2

Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Entry Search Show More

Medical Definition

harbor transitive verb

har·bor ('här-bər)

: to contain or be the home, habitat, or host of

those who harbor the gene for the illness

– William Booth

green monkey (*Cercopithecus aethiops*) may have harbored the ancestor of the AIDS virus

– R. C. Gallo

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Legal Definition

harbor 1 of 2 noun

har·bor

: a place of security and comfort

→ see also SAFE HARBOR

harbor 2 of 2 transitive verb

1 : to receive secretly and conceal (a fugitive from justice)

2 : to have (an animal) in one's keeping

may not harbor a dog without a permit

harborer noun

More from Merriam-Webster on harbor

English: Translation of harbor for Spanish Speakers

Britannica English: Translation of harbor for Arabic Speakers

Britannica.com: Encyclopedia article about harbor



noun 2 ▾

Synonyms Example Sentences Word History Phrases Containing Entries

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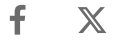
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Meaning of **harbor** in English



harbor

noun [C or U] US (UK **harbour**)

US /'hɑːr.bə/ UK /'hɑː.bəʃ/

Add to word list

B1

an area of water next to the coast, often protected from the ocean by a thick wall, where ships and boats can shelter:

- *Our hotel room overlooked a pretty little fishing harbor.*

Compare

dock *noun* (FOR SHIPS)

*cited in Matsumoto v. Labrador
No. 23-3787 archived November 22 & 25, 2024*

— Fewer examples

- *He has a house down by the harbor.*
- *The Central harbor area will be closed to all marine traffic from 3.45 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.*
- *The harbor walls need urgent reinforcement.*
- *It was a pretty town with a picturesque harbor and well-preserved buildings.*
- *In the harbor, the boats bobbed gently up and down on the water.*

+ SMART Vocabulary: related words and phrases



harbor





harbor verb [T] (HAVE IN MIND)



to think about or feel something, usually over a long period:

- harbor a grudge *He's been harboring a grudge against her ever since his promotion was refused.*
- *There are those who harbor suspicions about his motives.*
- *Powell remains non-committal about any political ambitions he may harbor.*

+ SMART Vocabulary: related words and phrases

harbor verb [T] (HIDE)



to protect someone or something bad, especially by hiding that person or thing when the police are looking for him, her, or it:

- *to harbor a criminal*

+ SMART Vocabulary: related words and phrases

harbor verb [T] (CONTAIN)



to contain the bacteria, etc. that can cause a disease to spread:

- *Bathroom door handles can harbor germs.*

+ SMART Vocabulary: related words and phrases

(Definition of harbor from the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus © Cambridge University Press)



Navigation icons: hamburger menu, user profile, globe, and dropdown arrow.

noun [C] (Cdn Br **harbour**)

US /'har·bər/

harbor *noun* [C] (WATER)

Add to word list

a protected area of water next to the land where ships and boats can be safely kept

harbor

verb [T] (Cdn Br **harbour**)

US /'har·bər/

harbor *verb* [T] (HAVE IN MIND)

+

to have in mind a thought or feeling, usually over a long period:

- *He harbored the suspicion that someone in the agency was spying for the enemy.*

*cited in Masumoto v. Labrador
No. 23-3177 archived November 22 & 25, 2024*

harbor *verb* [T] (HIDE)

+

to protect someone by providing a place to hide:

- *They were accused of harboring a fugitive.*

(Definition of **harbor** from the **Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary** © Cambridge University Press)

harbor | BUSINESS ENGLISH

harbor

noun [C] • TRANSPORT • US

UK /'hɑːbəʳ/ US

Add to word list



(Definition of **harbor** from the Cambridge Business English Dictionary © Cambridge University Press)

EXAMPLES of **harbor**

harbor

First, the wolf of love is very popular, but who among us does not also *harbor* a wolf of hate?

From Huffington Post



Authorities were concerned the dog might be harboring the virus.

From CBS News



Many, however, *harbor* doubts but are too scared to speak out for fear of being accused of promoting disunity.

From Foreign Policy



Friday and pounded the *harbor* through the day and night.

From Huffington Post



The *harbor* is a different matter, he said.

From Los Angeles Times



White caps had formed, and all the boats were safely in the *harbor*.

From Huffington Post



He was unwilling to wrangle it into a safe *harbor* come winter and rebuffed my brother and me when we tried to help.

From Dallas Morning News



We use government to provide infrastructure necessary to support our economy -- roads, bridges, harbors, airports, sewer and water systems, and street lights.

From Huffington Post



Remember, sponges *harbor* bacteria, so if you use them be sure to clean them frequently.

From Huffington Post



She said it is important that children know schools will be a safe *harbor* for them.



☰ 👤 🌐 ▼

Others may have rocky surfaces that could harbor liquid water suitable for living organisms.

From [CNN](#)



Think of it as a safe harbor for discriminating online.

From [Wired](#)



In advancing said notion, she seemed to harbor no appreciation, (in truth no tolerance) for evaluating a movie as escapist, joyous entertainment.

From [Los Angeles Times](#)



These examples are from corpora and from sources on the web. Any opinions in the examples do not represent the opinion of the Cambridge Dictionary editors or of Cambridge University Press or its licensors.

What is the pronunciation of harbor? >

Translations of harbor

in Spanish

puerto [masculine]...

See more

in Portuguese

porto [masculine]...

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in more languages ▼

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Translator tool

Browse

harasser

harassing



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harbor

harbor dues

harbor master

harbour

harbour dues

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More meanings of *harbor*

— All

[Bar Harbor](#)

[harbor dues](#)

[harbor master](#)

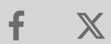
harbor, at [harbour](#)

harbor dues, at [harbour dues](#)

safe harbor, at [safe harbour](#)

harbor master, at [harbour master](#)

[See all meanings](#)



WORD OF THE DAY

clan

☰   

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transport

VERB

Etymology

Summary

Either (i) a borrowing from French. Or (ii) a borrowing from Latin.

Etymons: French *transporter*; Latin *transportāre*.

< **French** *transporter* (14th cent. in Hatzfeld & Darmesteter), or its source **Latin** *transportāre*, < *trans* across + *portāre* to carry.

Meaning & use

1.a. *transitive.* To carry, convey, or remove from one place or person to another; to convey across. 1483-

Formerly used in general sense: see quotes.; now mostly restricted to the conveyance of persons, animals, and things as an organized operation, or with allusion to other senses.

- 1483** Where it shalle please the to enhabyte it **transporte** me to the.
W. Caxton, translation of J. de Voragine, *Golden Legende* 260 b/1
- 1490** They were separed & **transported** in-to dyuerse places.
W. Caxton, translation of *Eneydos* x. 39
- 1513** Dyuers Bysshoppes sees were **transported** from one place to another, as Selwey to Chechester..And y^e See of Lychefeld, to Chester.
R. Fabyan, *New Cronycles of Englande & Fraunce* (1516) vol. I. ccxxii. f. cxlii^v
- 1548** If the Duke of Britayne, would **transporte** hym into England.
Hall's Vnion: Edward IV f. ccxxxv
- 1560** That he should neither make a brydge nor finde a foorde to **transport** his armie.
J. Daus, translation of J. Sleidane, *Commentaries* f. cclxxxiiiij
- 1579** To **tranchporte** any manner tymber.
Galway Arch. in *10th Rep. Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts* (1885) App. v. 430
- 1606** To demise to the said Grames and such other persons as shall be **transported**..120 quarters of land.
in *Cal. State Papers Ireland* 551



- a1616** The Scene Is now transported (Gentles) to Southampton.
W. Shakespeare, *Henry V* (1623) ii. 0. 35
- 1632** He made fast the doore, and transported the keys.
W. Lithgow, *Totall Discourse Trauayles* x. 457
- 1635** As a well polished Mirrou transporteth the light of the fire, or the sunne, against a wall.
J. Swan, *Speculum Mundi* vii. S3. 330
- 1709** Mules to transport his Provisions and Ammunition.
R. Steele, *Tatler* No. 3. ¶6
- 1829** I have no wings to transport me from cliff to cliff.
W. Scott, *Anne of Geierstein* vol. I. ii. 32
- 1853** This region..receiving the merchandize of East and North, and transporting it by its rivers.
J. H. Newman, *Historical Sketches* (1873) vol. II. i. ii. 65
- 1856** The dogs are indispensable in..transporting us to Anootah.
E. K. Kane, *Arctic Explorations* vol. II. vi. 75
- 1901** The Transvaal war has shown the transportability..of the heaviest artillery... The Boers transported their 'Long Tom' as they might have transported a piano.
North American Review February 222

1.b. figurative (apparently the earliest use)

c1374-

- c1374** The error and folye of mankynde departeth and deuydeth it,..and transporteth from verray and parfyt good to goodes þat ben false and vnparfyt.
G. Chaucer, translation of Boethius, *De Consolatione Philosophiae* (Cambridge MS.) iii. pr. ix. 65
- c1475** And in to sorow transport our gladnesse.
Partenay 3739
- 1509** Consyder well that your lusty courage Age of his cours must at the last transporte.
S. Hawes, *Pastime of Pleasure* (1845) xxxi. 150
- 1652** The Apostolick churches transported the exercises of that day to the Sunday.
G. Collier, *Vindiciæ Thesium de Sabbato* (1656) 45
- 1798** They transport our imagination to the scene.
J. Ferriar, *English Historians* 234
- 1857** Man transports himself into nature—endues the great objects or powers of nature with human feeling, human will.
W. Smith, *Confession Faith* ii, in *Thorndale* 547



To transfer or convey (property). *Obsolete.*

1523-1649

- 1523** All the right that oure sayde brother hath..., he yeldeth and transporteth them to vs perpetually.
Lord Berners, translation of J. Froissart, *Cronycles* vol. I. ccxii. 257
- 1523** They [are] to transport, cesse, and leaue eche kyng to other perpetually, al the right that they ought to haue in all these sayd thynges.
Lord Berners, translation of J. Froissart, *Cronycles* vol. I. ccxii. 259
- 1607** Sir James Deane's letter to the Company that his stock of the 3rd voyage, being £200, be transported over to the accompt of Andrew Holdip his kinsman.
E. India Co. Court Bk. vol. II. 44 (MS.)
- a1649** Transporting Lands to themselves and their Friends, distributing Offices and Places of the Crown and State.
W. Drummond, *Hist. James II in Works* (1711) 24

law

1.d. † *intransitive for reflexive.* To transfer oneself to another place of abode; to emigrate. *Obsolete.* **?c1550-1675**

- ?c1550** Six months after that he had transported into Flanders.
translation of P. Vergil, *Three Bks. Eclogues* *Engl. Hist.* (1844) 143
- 1631** He required him (before he transported) to returne.
J. Weever, *Ancient Funerall Monuments* 794
- 1633** It shall bee lawfull for any of the Inhabitants..to transport, without any molestation.
T. Stafford, *Pacata Hibernia* ii. x. 190
- 1675** The rest he transported into *Affrick*.
H. Neville, translation of N. Machiavelli, *Prince* viii, in translation of N. Machiavelli, *Works* 210

1.e. † To remove from this world to the next: cf. **translate** v. II.10. *Obsolete.* **a1616**

In quot. a1616, a euphemism for 'put to death, kill'. So taken by Schmidt in quot. 1600; but W. Aldis Wright takes it as, in Starveling's language, = 'transform, transfigure', comparing the use of 'translate' in iii. i. 122.

- [1600]** Hee cannot be heard of. Out of doubt he is transported.
W. Shakespeare, *Midsummer Night's Dream* iv. ii. 4]
- a1616** A creature vnpre-par'd, vnmeet for death, And to transport him in the minde he is, Were damnable.
W. Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure* (1623) iv. iii. 65



2. spec.

2.a. *Scottish Church*. To translate (a minister) from one charge to another.

1637-

1637-50 There wes an intention to have had four of the ministers of Edinburgh transported to other places.

J. Row, *Historie of Kirk of Scotland* (1842) 164

1726 Discharging them to be transported without the consent of the General Assembly, or declared transportable without consent of the people.

R. Wodrow, *Correspondence* (1843) vol. III. 257

1791 By transported we mean, in Scotland, removed to another parish.

F. Grose, *Olio* (1796) 111

1858 A Seceding minister at Kircaldy. But I hear he expects to be transported soon.

E. B. Ramsay, *Reminiscences of Scottish Life* (1870) v. 118

1904 It was carried [in] 1830 by a great majority to transport.

R. Small, *Hist. Congregations United Presbyterian Church* vol. I. 457

Scottish Church

liturgical

2.b. *Scottish Ecclesiastical Law*. To remove (the site of the church) to a different part of the parish.

1707-

1707 The transporting of Kirks,..or erecting and building of new kirks, being always with the consent of the heritors of three parts..at least of the valuation of the parock whereof the kirk is craved to be transported or..new kirks to be erected and built.

Scottish Act Anne c. 10 (1824) vol. XI. 433/1

1765-8 With more ample powers, of..transporting churches already built to more convenient places.

J. Erskine, *Institute of Law of Scotland* i. v. §21

1838 *Transportation of Churches*, The form of applying for transportation is by a summons raised before the Teind Court, concluding for authority to transport, and to have the new church declared the regular parish church.

W. Bell, *Dictionary Law of Scotland* (at cited word)

ecclesiastical law

Scottish Church

ecclesiastical

Scottish English

2.c. To carry away or convey into banishment, as a criminal or a slave; to deport.

1666-

1666 It shall be lawfull to and for the Justices..to transport or cause to be transported the said Offenders..into any of his Majestyes Dominions in America.

Act 18 & 19 Charles II c. 3 §2



- 1667** A prisoner's being condemned at Salsbury for a small matter... They were considering to transport him to save his life.
S. Pepys, *Diary* 8 September (1974) vol. VIII. 428
- 1757** The rest were sold for slaves and transported to Barbadoes.
D. Hume, *History of Great Britain* vol. II. 60
- 1849** It was provided that the offender should not be transported to New England.
T. B. Macaulay, *History of England* vol. I. ii. 177

3. *figurative*. To 'carry away' with the strength of some emotion; to cause to be beside oneself, to put into an ecstasy, to enrapture.

1509-

- 1509** But loke hye his hart to transport.
S. Hawes, *Pastime of Pleasure* (1845) xxv. 179
- 1596** Transported with celestiaall desyre Of those faire formes.
E. Spenser, *Fowre Hymnes* iii
- 1604** They stood transported with amazement.
E. Grimeston, translation of J. de Acosta, *Naturall & Morall Historie Indies* i. xxi. 69
- 1667** Onely begotten Son, seest thou what rage Transports our adversarie.
J. Milton, *Paradise Lost* iii. 81
- 1712** Transported with the view, I'm lost in wonder, love, and praise.
J. Addison, *Spectator* No. 453. 18
- 1841** Transported with the thought that rescue had at length arrived, Emma and Dolly shrieked aloud for help.
C. Dickens, *Barnaby Rudge* lxxi. 352

Pronunciation

BRITISH ENGLISH

/tra:n(t)'spɔ:t/ 

trahnt-SPORT

/tran(t)'spɔ:t/ 

trant-SPORT

U.S. ENGLISH

/træn(t)'spɔrt/ 

trans-PORT

Pronunciation keys ▼



Frequency

transport is one of the 5,000 most common words in modern written English. It is similar in frequency to words like *borrow*, *patent*, *rotation*, *temporal*, and *worship*.

It typically occurs about 20 times per million words in modern written English.

transport is in frequency band 6, which contains words occurring between 10 and 100 times per million words in modern written English. More about OED's frequency bands

Frequency data is computed programmatically, and should be regarded as an estimate.

Frequency of *transport*, v., 1750–2010

* Occurrences per million words in written English

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Historical frequency series are derived from Google Books Ngrams (version 2), a data set based on the Google Books corpus of several million books printed in English between 1500 and 2010.

The overall frequency for a given word is calculated by summing frequencies for the main form of the word, any plural or inflected forms, and any major spelling variations.

For sets of homographs (distinct entries that share the same word-form, e.g. *mole*, n.¹, *mole*, n.², *mole*, n.³, etc.), we have estimated the frequency of each homograph entry as a fraction of the total Ngrams frequency for the word-form. This may result in inaccuracies.



Frequency of *transport*, v., 2017–2023

* Occurrences per million words in written English

Modern frequency series are derived from a corpus of 20 billion words, covering the period from 2017 to the present. The corpus is mainly compiled from online news sources, and covers all major varieties of World English.

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Compounds & derived words

Sort by

transport, n. **c1485-**

The action of carrying or conveying a thing or person from one place to another; conveyance.

transporting, n. **1500-**

The action of transport, v.; transportation.

transporter, n. **1535-**

One who transports.

transportation, n. **1540-**

The action or process of transporting; conveyance (of things or persons) from one place to another.



transported, adj. **1549-**

Not conveyed or carried.

transportage, n. 1562-1637

= transportation, n. 1, transport, n.

transportable, adj. & n. 1582-

spec. of computer software: that can be used on more than one kind of machine.

transported, adj. 1600-

Conveyed from one place to another.

transporting, adj. a1618-

That removes from one place to another; engaged in transportation.

retransport, v. 1622-

transitive. To transport to a new destination; to transport again or back; spec. to move (a convict) to a different (typically more severe) penal...

transportive, adj. 1622-

Having the quality of transporting (literal and figurative); tending to transport.

transportment, n. a1640-86

Transportation: = transport, n. 1. rare.

transportative, adj. 1650-

Having the quality of transporting.

transportee, n. 1883-

A transported convict.

teleport, v. 1931-

transitive. To cause to move or travel by teleportation; esp. to convey or transport instantaneously from one place to another.

teletransport, v. 1953-

transitive and intransitive = teleport, v.

manuport, n. 1966-

A natural object, esp. a stone, that has been carried and deposited somewhere by humans but has not been artificially shaped.



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