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WordReference Random House Learner's Dictionary of American English © 2025ac•tu•al /ˈæktʃʊəl/USA pronunciation adj. [before a noun] existing in act, fact, or reality; real:the actual cost. ac•tu•al•ly, adv. actual is an adjective, actuality is a noun, actually is an adverb, actualize is a verb:The actual facts are these. In actuality, the quarter didn't disappear; it was in the magician's hand. Actually I wanted to stay home. He wanted to actualize his potential. WordReference Random House Unabridged Dictionary of American English © 2025ac•tu•al (akʹchōō əl),USA pronunciation adj. existing in act or fact; real:an actual case of heroism; actual expenses. existing now; present; current:The ship's actual position is 22 miles due east of Miami. [Obs.]pertaining to or involving acts or action. Latin Middle French Late Latin āctuālis, equivalent. to Latin āctu- (stem of action noun, nominal āctus; see act) + -ālis -al1; replacing Middle English actuel 1275–1325 acʹtu•al•ness, n. 1. genuine, authentic, veritable. See real 1. Collins Concise English Dictionary © HarperCollins Publishers:: actual /ˈæktʃʊəl/ adj existing in reality or as a matter of fact real or genuine existing at the present time; currentEtymology: 14th Century: actuel existing, from Late Latin āctuālis relating to acts, practical, from Latin āctus act Also found in: Thesaurus, Medical, Legal, Financial, Acronyms, Idioms, Encyclopedia.Related to actual: Actual Cost, actual time (ăk′choo-əl)adj.1. a. Existing in reality and not potential, possible, simulated, or false: The actual damages were less than first reported. In the actual test, the mechanism did not work as the computer model predicted. See Synonyms at real1.b. Based on fact: The actual history of the voyage is different from the popular accounts.2. Conforming to the characteristics of a group or type; typical: Is he an actual doctor or a fake?[Middle English, from Old French, active, from Late Latin āctuālis, from Latin āctus, past participle of agere, to drive, do; see ag- in Indo-European roots.]American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (ˈæktʃʊəl) adj1. existing in reality or as a matter of fact3. existing at the present time; current4. (usually preceded by your) informal often facetious Brit (intensifier): that music's by your actual Mozart, isn't it?. [C14: actuel existing, from Late Latin āctuālis relating to acts, practical, from Latin āctus act]Usage: The excessive use of actual and actually should be avoided. They are unnecessary in sentences such as in actual fact, he is forty-two, and he did actually go to the play but did not enjoy itCollins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (ˈæk tʃu əl) adj. 1. existing in act, fact, or reality; real: an actual case; the actual cost. 2. existing now; present; current: the ship's actual position. [1275–1325; < Late Latin āctuālis= Latin āctu- (s. of āctus act) + -ālis -al1] Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved.1. 'actual'You use actual to emphasize that the place, object, or person you are talking about is the real or genuine one.The predicted results and the actual results are very different.The interpretation bore no relation to the actual words spoken.Be Careful!You only use actual in front of a noun. You do not say that something 'is actual'.2. 'current' and 'present'You do not use 'actual' to describe something that is happening, being done, or being used at the present time. Instead you use current or present.The store needs more than $100,000 to survive the current crisis.Is the present situation really any different from many others in the past?Collins COBUILD English Usage © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 2004, 2011, 2012 Adj.1.actual - presently existing in fact and not merely potential or possible; "the predicted temperature and the actual temperature were markedly different"; "actual and imagined conditions"potential, possible - existing in possibility; "a potential problem"; "possible uses of nuclear power"2.actual - taking place in reality; not pretended or imitated; "we saw the actual wedding on television"; "filmed the actual beating"real, existent - being or occurring in fact or actuality; having verified existence; not illusory; "real objects"; "real people; not ghosts"; "a film based on real life"; "a real illness"; "real humility"; "Life is real! Life is earnest!"- Longfellow3.actual - being or reflecting the essential or genuine character of something; "her actual motive"; "a literal solitude like a desert"- G.K.Chesterton; "a genuine dilemma"true - consistent with fact or reality; not false; "the story is true"; "it is undesirable to believe a proposition when there is no ground whatever for supposing it true"- B. Russell; "the true meaning of the statement"4.actual - existing in act or fact; "rocks and trees...the actual world"; "actual heroism"; "the actual things that produced the emotion you experienced"real, existent - being or occurring in fact or actuality; having verified existence; not illusory; "real objects"; "real people; not ghosts"; "a film based on real life"; "a real illness"; "real humility"; "Life is real! Life is earnest!"- Longfellow5.actual - being or existing at the present moment; "the ship's actual position is 22 miles due south of Key West"current - occurring in or belonging to the present time; "current events"; "the current topic"; "current negotiations"; "current psychoanalytic theories"; "the ship's current position"Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.adjective1. genuine, real, true, confirmed, authentic, verified, truthful, bona fide, dinkum (Austral & N.Z. informal) They are using local actors or the actual people involved. genuine made-up, probable, untrue, unreal, fictitiousCollins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002adjective1. Occurring or existing in act or fact:3. In agreement or correspondence with fact: The American Heritage® Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright © 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. فِعْلِي، حَقِيقِي، راهِنفِعْلِيّ tatsächlichwirklichaktuellgegenwärtigrealverdaderoactualefectivoexistentenykyinentämänhetkinentodellinenvarsinainenaktuálisfennállójelenlegiténylegesvalóságosrealeveramenteeffettivoesistentein effettifaktiškasis tikrųjutiesą sakanttikrastikroviškumasdaadwerkelijkeigenlijkfeitelijkhuidigwerkelijkдействительныйистинныйнастоящийныешнийреальныйCollins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005Collins English/French Electronic Resource. © HarperCollins Publishers 2005Collins German Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged 7th Edition 2005. © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1980 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007 [ˈæktjʊəl] adj (amount, result) → reale, vero/a, effettivo/a; (example) → concreto/ain actual fact → in realtàwhat were his actual words? → cosa ha detto esattamente?Collins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition © HarperCollins Publishers 1995 (ˈæktʃʊəl) adjective real; existing; not imaginary. In actual fact he is not as stupid as you think he is. in werklikheid فِعْلِي، حَقِيقِي، رَاهِن действителен real skutečný tatsächlich faktisk; virkelig πραγματικόςreal tegelik واقعی todellinen réelמציאותי, אמיתי, ממשי, בפועל, ממש ○○○○○○○○ stvaran tényleges riil, sebenarnya raunverulegur reale 現実の faktiškas, tikras īsts; patiess; faktisks hakikat sebenar werkelijkvirkelig, faktiskrzeczywisty, faktyczny واقعي يه real real действительный; существующий skutočný resničen stvaran faktisk, verklig ○○○○○○○ gerçek, gerçekte 實際的 дійсний; справжній واقعی ، حقیقی thực sự 实际的,actu'ality (-ˈæ-) noun (a) reality. the actuality of werklikheid حَقِيقَة، حَالِيَّة действителност realidade skutečnost, realita die Wirklichkeit virkelighed πραγματικότηταrealidad tegelikkus واقعیت todellisuus réalité מציאות ○○○○○○ ○○○/○○○○○○: stvarnost valóság benar-benar raunveruleiki realtà 現実 tikroviškumas īstenība; realitāte kebenaran werkelijkheidvirkelighet realność رستیا realidade realitate действительность realit stvarnost verklighet, faktum ○○○○○○○○ gerçek, hakikat 現實 дійсність, реальність واقعیت ,امر واقع sự thực 现实'actually adverb1. really. She actually saw the accident happen. regtig فِعْلًا، في الوَاقِع، في الحَقِيقَة، واقعیت действително na realidade skutečně, opravdu wirklich faktisk; faktiskt; virkelig; virkeligt πραγματικά, όντωςen realidad, realmente tõepoolest واقعاً؛ در عمل todella rée stvarno valóban benar-benar, sebenarnya raunverulega in realtà; veramente, realmente 実際に iš tikrųjų īstenībā; patiesībā memang betul echtegentlig, faktiskrzeczywiście, faktycznie واقعاً، یه رستیا سره. na realidade într-adevăr действително skutočne, naozaj v resnici zaista verkligen, faktiskt ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ gerçekten, hakikat 實際上 справді, дійсно در اصل thực sự 实际上2. in fact. Actually, I'm doing something else this evening. eintlik في الحَقِيقَه всъщност de fato ve skutečnosti, vlastně eigentlich faktisk; i virkelighedenστην πραγματικότητα de hecho tegelikult واقع در itse asiassa en faitלמעשה, לאמיתו של דבר zapravo a helyzet az, hogy... sesungguhnya raunar in realtà 本当のことをいうと tiesą sa faktiski sebenarnya eigenlijk faktisk, i virkelighetenwłaściwie يه واقعیت کي de facto de fapt на самом деле v skutočnosti, vlastne pravzaprav zapravo faktiskt, egentligen ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ gerçekte, aslında 事實上 насправді در اصل , فی الحقیقت thực tế 事实上Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary © 2006-2013 K Dictionaries Ltd. → فِعْلِيّ skutečný faktisk wirklich πραγμ varsinainen réel stvaran reale 実際の ○○○ daadwerkelijk faktisk rzeczywisty real фактический faktisk ○○○○○○○ gerçek thực sự 实际的Multilingual Translator © HarperCollins Publishers 2009a. actual, real, verdadero-a; adv. en realidad, actualmente;the ___ symptom → el síntoma verdadero. English-Spanish Medical Dictionary © Farlex 2012 Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: The President is to be the "commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several States, when called into the actual service of the United States.It presents to the author's mind, and through him to the minds of his readers, all the elements of human experience and life (drawing from his actual experience or his reading).The chief greatness of the "Iliad" is in the character of the heroes Achilles and Hector rather than in the actual events which take place: in the Cyclic writers facts rather than character are the objects of interest, and events are so packed together as to leave no space for any exhibition of the play of moral forces.The situation described must have occurred frequently in actual life.In the second fragment there are added the actual notes of this person concerning certain events in his life.From the battlefield adjutants he had sent out, and orderlies from his marshals, kept galloping up to Napoleon with reports of the progress of the action, but all these reports were false, both because it was impossible in the heat of battle to say what was happening at any given moment and because many of the adjutants did not go to the actual place of conflict but reported what they had heard from others; and also because while an adjutant was riding more than a mile to Napoleon circumstances changed and the news he brought was already becoming false.Of one thing I felt more strongly convinced than ever, after spending this month in seeing the actual life of the coloured people, and that was that, in order to lift them up, something must be done more than merely to imitate New England education as it then existed."In her actual state, with her surrounding atmosphere certainly very much reduced, her seas for the most part dried up, her insufficient supply of water restricted, vegetation, sudden alternations of cold and heat, her days and nights of 354 hours-- the moon does not seem habitable to me, nor does she seem propitious to animal development, nor sufficient for the wants of existence as we understand it."Although he sometimes dreamed sentimentally of marriage in the abstract, of actual marriage, of marriage with a flesh-and-blood individual, of marriage that involved clergymen and 'Voices that Breathe o'er Eden,' and giggling bridesmaids and cake, Dudley Pickering was afraid with a terror that woke him sweating in the night.The same distinction marks off Tragedy from Comedy; for Comedy aims at representing men as worse, Tragedy as better than in actual life.White and black belong to the same genus, colour; justice and injustice, to contrary genera, virtue and vice; while good and evil do not belong to genera, but are themselves actual genera, with terms under them.The paper is interesting as showing what were the actual experiences out of which he formed his imaginative stories. Princeton's WordNet3.7 / 3 votesactual, existentadjectivepresently existing in fact and not merely potential or possible"the predicted temperature and the actual temperature were markedly different"; "actual and imagined conditions"actualadjectivetaking place in reality; not pretended or imitated"we saw the actual wedding on television"; "filmed the actual beating"actual, genuine, literal, realadjectivebeing or reflecting the essential or genuine character of something"her actual motive"; "a literal solitude like a desert"- G.K.Chesterton; "a genuine dilemma"actual, factualadjectiveexisting in act or fact"rocks and trees...the actual world"; "actual heroism"; "the actual things that produced the emotion you experienced"actualadjectivebeing or existing at the present moment"the ship's actual position is 22 miles due south of Key West"Wiktionary5.0 / 1 voteactualnounAn actual, real one; notably:actualadjectiveExisting in act or reality, not just potentially; really acted or acting; occurring in factactualadjectiveFactual, real, not just apparent or even falseThe actual government expenses dramatically excede the budgetactualadjectiveIn action at the time being; now existing.The actual situation of the world economy is worse then anyone expected a year agoactualadjectiveActive, not passiveactualadjectiveUsed to emphasise a noun or verb, whether something is real or metaphorical.Etymology: actual, actuel, from actuel, actual, from actualis, from actus,, from agere + -alis 'ˈal'.Samuel Johnson's Dictionary0.0 / 0 votesActualadjectiveEtymology: actuel, Fr.1. That which comprises action. In this slumbry agitation, besides her walking and other actual performances, what, at any time, have you heard her say? William Shakespeare, Macbeth.2. Really in act; not merely potential. Sin, there in pow′r beforeOnce actual; not in body, and to dwellHabitual habitant. John Milton, Paradise Lost, b. x. l. 587.3. In act; not purely in speculation. For he that but conceives a crime in thought,Contracts the danger of an actual fault:Then what must he expect, that still proceedsTo finish sin, and work up thoughts to deeds? John Dryden, Juvenal, Sat. xiii.ChatGPT0.0 / 0 votesactualActual refers to something existing in fact or reality, being real or true, not hypothetical or supposed. It deals with things as they are, rather than as they could be in theory or imagination. It's a state or condition that currently or really exists.actualActual refers to something that exists in reality or fact, something that is real, current, or present as opposed to hypothetical, speculated, or potential. It may also refer to the exact, precise, or certain amount, degree, or extent of something.actualActual refers to something existing in reality or fact; something that is real or true, physically present or tangible, not hypothetical or imagined. It also refers to the result obtained from an action or a situation.actualActual refers to something that exists in reality, is real or factual, and is not hypothetical, simulated, or merely possible or potential. It is often used to emphasize the reality of a situation or thing over what was speculated or imagined.actualActual refers to something that exists in reality or fact, something that is real or true, not imaginary or theoretical. It refers to the current, present, or existing state of affairs. It is often used to contrast with what is possible, expected, planned, or intended.Webster Dictionary1.0 / 1 voteActualadjectiveinvolving or comprising action; activeActualadjectiveexisting in act or reality; really acted or acting; in fact; real; -- opposed to potential, possible, virtual, speculative, conceivable, theoretical, or nominal; as, the actual cost of goods; the actual case under discussionActualadjectivein action at the time being; now existing; present; as the actual situation of the countryActualnounsomething actually received; real, as distinct from estimated, receiptsChambers 20th Century Dictionary0.0 / 0 votesActualakt′ū-al, adj. real: existing in fact and now, as opp. to an imaginary or past state of things.—v.t. Act′ualise, to make actual: to realise in action.—n. Actual′ity.—adv. Act′ually.Editors Contribution0.0 / 0 votesactualFactual and real.The truth is always actual and honest.Submitted by MaryC on March 18, 2020 British National CorpusSpoken Corpus FrequencyRank popularity for the word 'Actual' in Spoken Corpus Frequency: #1737Written Corpus FrequencyRank popularity for the word 'Actual' in Written Corpus Frequency: #741Adjectives FrequencyRank popularity for the word 'Actual' in Adjectives Frequency: #179Usage in printed sourcesFrom: Anagrams for Actual »How to pronounce Actual?How to say Actual in sign language?NumerologyChaldean NumerologyThe numerical value of Actual in Chaldean Numerology is: 9Pythagorean NumerologyThe numerical value of Actual in Pythagorean Numerology is: 4Moen Al Kadimi:The actual liberation should start from within, following coordination with locals and forces around the city to start the revolt, we are waiting for government support and re-arming so we can move forward toward Mosul.Francis M. Faber Jr.:Attention! Pundits!", Please offer the actual dimensions when you proclaim the; LONG AND SHORT OF IT.Jodi Ray:We're trying very hard not to turn people away, when they can sit and look at different plans and ask questions, it increases their confidence level in making an actual choice.San Diego:That is the golden question: What are the actual health consequences from the chronic exposure over the past 20-plus years? surprisingly, little human clinical or epidemiological research has been done on this.The Netherlands:The fact that the Commission observes that there would be state aid in the Starbucks file raises a lot of questions, the Netherlands is convinced that actual international standards are applied. References حقيقي, واقعي, فعلي, حاضر, راهنArabicреален, актуален, сегашен, действителенBulgarianrealCatalan, Valencianskutečný Czechtatsächlich, konkret, aktuell, gegenwärtigGermanπραγματικόςGreekefectivo, actual, verdadero, existente, realSpanishtämänhetkinen, todellinen, tosiasiallinen, nykyinen, suoranainenFinnisheffectif, réelFrenchcinnteachScottish Gaelicfennálló, valóságos, aktuális, tényleges, igazi, jelenlegi, valódiHungarianreal, ver, actual, effective, existenteInterlingua areale, esistente, effettivoItalianבפועלHebrew実際, 現実Japaneseმიმდინარე, ნამდვილი, ფაქტობრივიGeorgian KoreantinanaMāorieigenlijk, echt, effectief, daadwerkelijk, werkelijk, huidig, actueel, reëel, feitelijkDutchvirkelig, faktisk, reellNorwegianprawdziwy, właściwyPolishefetivo, real, atualPortugueseподлинный, фактический, настоящий, действительный, текущий, истинный, нынешний, реальныйRussianbefintlig, faktisk, aktuell, reell, rådande, verkligSwedishاصلUrduthực tế, có thật, hiện thời, đúng thời, hiện tại, thật sự, hiện nay, thậtVietnamese - Select - 简体中文 (Chinese - Simplified) 繁體中文 (Chinese - Traditional) Español (Spanish) Esperanto (Esperanto) 日本語 (Japanese) Português (Portuguese) Deutsch (German) العربية (Arabic) Français (French) Русский (Russian) ○○○○○ (Kannada) ○○○ (Korean) עברית (Hebrew) Gaeilge (Irish) Українська (Ukrainian) اردو (Urdu) Magyar (Hungarian) ○○○○ ○○○○○○ (Hindi) Indonesia (Indonesian) Italiano (Italian) ○○○○○ (Tamil) Türkçe (Turkish) ○○○○○○ (Telugu) ○○○○○○○ (Thai) Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) Čeština (Czech) Polski (Polish) Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian) Română (Romanian) Nederlands (Dutch) Ελληνικά (Greek) Latinum (Latin) Svenska (Swedish) Dansk (Danish) Suomi (Finnish) فارسی (Persian) יידיש (Yiddish) հայերեն (Armenian) Norsk (Norwegian) English (English) 1 : real and not merely possible or imagined : existing in fact The movie is based on actual events. [=on events that really happened] They signed the agreement in the spring, but the actual sale wasn't made until that sun You deposit money in a bank account but the actual money is not held there. He looks younger, but he is in actual fact almost 60 years old. [=he is actually almost 60 years old] 2 : known to be correct or precise : not false or apparent The woman's actual [=exact] age is unknown. The actual cost of the repair was much higher than the estimate. 3 — used for emphasis This is the actual [=very] room in which my grandfather was born. Meanings Synonyms Sentences Existing in reality and not potential, possible, simulated, or false. The actual damages were less than first reported. In the actual test, the mechanism did not work as the computer model predicted. Existing in reality or in fact; not merely possible, but real; as it really is. The actual cost of the dam. The actual history of the voyage is different from the popular accounts. Existing at present or at the time. Conforming to the characteristics of a group or type; typical. Is he an actual doctor or a fake? More Adjective Definitions (6) An actual, real one; notably: "Bravo Six Actual, Snakebite leader" (The person with the callsign "Snakebite leader" requests to speak to the commander of company Bravo and not the radio operator.) Middle English actual, actuel (“active”), from Old French actuel, actual, from Late Latin actualis (“active, practical”), from Latin actus (“act, action, performance”), from agere (“to do; to act”) + -alis (“-al”). From Wiktionary Middle English from Old French active from Late Latin āctuālis from Latin āctus past participle of agere to drive, do ag- in Indo-European roots From American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 5th Edition existing in act or fact; real.an actual case of heroism; actual expenses.Synonyms: veritable, authentic, genuineAntonyms: fictional, unrealexisting now; present; current.The ship's actual position is 22 miles due east of Miami.Obsolete. pertaining to or involving acts or action.existing in reality or as a matter of factreal or genuineexisting at the present time; currentinformal (usually preceded by your) (intensifier)that music's by your actual Mozart, isn't it?“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012The excessive use of actual and actually should be avoided. They are unnecessary in sentences such as in actual fact, he is forty-two, and he did actually go to the play but did not enjoy itactualness nounnonactual adjectivenonactualness nounOrigin of actual1First recorded in 1275–1325; from Late Latin āctuālis, from Latin āctu(s) act + -ālis -al 1; replacing Middle English actuel, from Middle French, from LatinOrigin of actual1C14: actuel existing, from Late Latin āctuālis relating to acts, practical, from Latin āctus actHow does actual compare to similar and commonly confused words? Explore the most common comparisons:Examples have not been reviewed."If I think back to the actual Test series, I would say it was the greatest experience of my rugby career," he added.The second witness later admitted he picked Torres from a photo lineup because he bore a close resemblance to the actual shooter.It will operate on weekdays between 05:30 and 20:30 so young actors can fit in their actual studies between night shoots, reshoots and location filming.Separation anxiety — the fear of being separated from the primary caregiver and something happening to them — is a normal part of early childhood development; a parent’s actual deportation is “their worst nightmare.”Better yet, they can do so without the risk of bringing actual predators to justice, a precedent they don’t want to establish lest it come for their leaders.certain existing physical real substantial substantive ACTUactual bodily harmBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrsstuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC

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