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1. Sub (noun): A shortened form of the word "substitute," referring to someone or something that replaces another. 2. Sub (noun): A type of sandwich, also known as a submarine sandwich, characterized by its long bread and various fillings. 3. Sub (verb): The act of substituting or replacing one thing with another. 4. Sub (prefix): A prefix meaning "under" or "below," commonly used in terms like "submarine" or "subterranean." "Sub" primarily functions as a prefix meaning "under," "below," or "beneath" in both physical and metaphorical contexts. It appears in numerous English words to indicate subordinate status, lower position, or secondary rank, such as "submarine" (under the sea) or "subcommittee" (secondary committee). Exploring the versatility and widespread use of "sub" can enhance your vocabulary and understanding of word formation, so take time to discover its many applications across different fields and contexts. "Sub" Definition: What Does "Sub" Mean? The term "sub" has multiple definitions and can be used in various ways, including as a noun, verb, and prefix. Each definition carries different implications depending on its context of use. Definition of "Sub": Substitute The first meaning of "sub" refers to a person or thing that replaces another, often used in sports or classroom contexts. Definition of "Sub": Sandwich In American English, a "sub" refers to a type of sandwich that is long in shape and typically filled with a variety of ingredients, including meats, cheeses, and vegetables. Definition of "Sub": To Substitute As a verb, "sub" is shorthand for substituting one thing for another, often seen in contexts such as cooking or sports. Definition of "Sub": Prefix When used as a prefix, "sub" indicates something that is beneath or under, as in words like "submarine" or "subterranean." Parts of Speech The word "sub" can function as a noun, verb, or prefix, depending on the context. As a noun, it refers to either a substitute or a type of sandwich. As a verb, it means to replace or act as a substitute. It also serves as a prefix meaning "under" or "below." How to Pronounce "Sub"? The pronunciation of "sub" is quite simple and straightforward, consisting of just one syllable. When spoken, the word begins with the "s" sound, which is soft and unvoiced, like the initial sound in "sun." This is followed by a short "uh" vowel sound. Finally, it ends with the "b" sound, which is voiced and short, similar to the end sound in "club." Phonetic Pronunciation: /sʌb/ Synonyms of "Sub": Other Ways to Say "Sub" There are several synonyms for "sub" depending on the meaning: Substitute Replacement Stand-in Sandwich Submarine sandwich Backup Fill-in Antonyms of "Sub": Other Ways to Say "Sub" The following words serve as antonyms for "sub" in various contexts: Original Main Permanent Principal Primary Core Mainstay Examples of "Sub" in a Sentence Here are ten examples of how "sub" can be used in various contexts: The coach decided to sub a player during the last quarter of the game. I ordered a sub from the local sandwich shop for lunch. Our regular teacher was absent, so a sub filled in for the day. In this recipe, you can sub almond milk for regular milk. The sub did a great job standing in for the lead actor. The engineer designed a model sub for the naval project. The team had to sub a new player after the injury. I always get a turkey sub whenever I visit that deli. They had to sub the singer a minute before the concert. The school called in a sub teacher when the regular one fell ill. Frequency of Use The frequency of "sub" as a prefix is exceptionally high in English, particularly in academic, scientific, and technical contexts. According to Google's Ngram Viewer, its usage has shown steady growth since the 1800s, with a marked increase during the 20th century due to scientific and technological advances. As a standalone word, its frequency increased notably in the latter half of the 20th century with the rise of casual usage referring to substitutes and submarine sandwiches. Variants of "Sub" Several variants of the word "sub" include: Subbing: The action of substituting or replacing. Subs: Plural of "sub," referring to more than one substitute or sandwich. Substitute: The full form of the word used in both verb and noun forms. Related Terms to "Sub" The following terms are related to "sub": Subordinate Substandard Subsurface Subpar Subatomic Subconscious Submission Etymology: History and Origin of "Sub" "Sub" derives from the Latin "sub," meaning "under" or "below," which traces back to Proto-Indo-European *upo. It entered English through Latin and Old French, appearing in borrowed words during the Middle English period (1100-1500). In Latin, it was used extensively in compound words and phrases, maintaining its meaning of "under" or "beneath." The prefix gained significant usage during the Scientific Revolution and continues to be productive in forming new technical and scientific terms. Derivatives and Compounds of "Sub" There are several derivatives and compounds of the word "sub": Submarine: A vessel designed to operate underwater. Subterranean: Existing or occurring below the Earth's surface. Substandard: Below the accepted standard or norm. Common Misspellings of "Sub" The following are common misspellings of "sub": 10 Idioms Similar to "Sub" These idioms are similar to "sub" in meaning or usage: Take the place of Step in Stand in for Act as a replacement Fill the gap Pinch hit Cover for Hold the fort Second string Back up 10 Common Questions About "Sub" Below are some frequently asked questions about the term "sub": 1. What does "sub" mean in sports? It refers to a substitute player who takes the place of another during a game. 2. Is "sub" a formal or informal word? "Sub" can be used both formally and informally, depending on the context. 3. Why is a sandwich called a "sub"? The shape of the sandwich resembles a submarine, leading to the name "sub." 4. Can "sub" be used as a verb? Yes, "sub" is commonly used as a verb meaning to substitute something. 5. Is there a plural form of "sub"? Yes, the plural form of "sub" is "subs," which can refer to multiple substitutes or sandwiches. 6. What is the opposite of a "sub"? Depending on the context, antonyms could include "main" or "original." 7. Does "sub" always mean "under"? No, it depends on the context. As a prefix, it usually means "under," but in other uses, it does not. 8. Is "sub" a technical term? In certain fields, like science and submarines, "sub" can be considered a technical term. 9. How is "sub" used in a classroom? In schools, "sub" refers to a substitute teacher. 10. What's the origin of the prefix "sub"? It comes from the Latin word "sub," meaning "under" or "below." Conclusion The term "sub" refers to a substitute, a type of sandwich, or a prefix meaning "under" or "below," showcasing its versatility in various contexts. Whether discussing food, sports, or technical fields, the word has a place in many aspects of life. Consider using "sub" to expand your vocabulary and explore its many contexts. Not available at all locations. Hours vary upon location. AVAILABLE TOPPINGS: Pepperoni, Sausage, Ham, Bacon, Mushrooms, Onions, Green Peppers, Tomatoes, Black Olives, Banana Peppers, Jalapeños and Extra Cheese. Not available at all locations. Hours vary upon location. VanillaChocolateStrawberryMint Chocolate ChipCookies-N-CreamCookie DoughBlack RaspberryHoly CowEspresso-DoughCoffeeChocolate RaspberryMaple WalnutMaine BlueberryBall Park CrunchNuttin but BananaChocolate Peanut ButterChocolate Covered Cookie DoughCotton Candy ConfettiMighty Fine Mango*Flavors vary by store and seasonality VanillaChocolateBlack RaspberryVanilla/Chocolate TwistVanilla/Black Raspberry Twist* Flavors vary by store and seasonality \$3.89 \$4.89 \$5.89 Vanilla, Chocolate, Strawberry, Chocolate Peanut Butter, Strawberry Banana, and Very Strawberry \$5.89 Butterfinger, Cookies-N-Cream, Peanut Butter Cup, M&M's, Nutty Chocolate, Strawberry, Rainbow, and Blueberry \$3.99 Strawberry, Strawberry Banana, Very Berry, and Blueberry \$4.99 Hot Fudge, Strawberry Banana, Peanut Butter Cup, Brownie, Dirt, Very Berry, Chocoholics Brownie, Chocolate Caramel, Red, White & Blue, and Nutty Banana \$3.99 \$6.29 \$3.89 \$4.99 \$0.99 \$1.29 \$1.99 *3 Gallon Tubs Available for Special Order*Ice Cream Open Seasonally at Most Locations. Not available at all locations. Hours vary upon location. FREE SMALL FOUNTAIN DRINK With the purchase of any deli sandwich or wrap TUESDAY FREE DELI SIZE FRITO-LAY CHIPS With the purchase of any deli sandwich or wrap WEDNESDAY \$1.00 OFF any whole deli sandwich or wrap THURSDAY-SUNDAY LARGE CHEESE OR 1-TOPPING PIZZA FOR ONLY \$10.99 FRIDAY FREE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE With the purchase of any deli sandwich or wrap *All promotions valid with purchase of a sandwich or wrap from the deli counter only bomber, grinder, hero, hero sandwich, hoagie, hoagy, Cuban sandwich, Italian sandwich, poor boy, sub, submarine, submarine sandwich, torpedo, wedge, zepnouna large sandwich made of a long crusty roll split lengthwise and filled with meats and cheese (and tomato and onion and lettuce and condiments); different names are used in different sections of the United Statesubmarine, pigboat, sub, U-boatverba submersible warship usually armed with torpedoessubstitute, sub, stand in, fill inverbea substituteThe young teacher had to substitute for the sick colleague"; "The skim milk substitutes for cream—we are on a strict diet!" a submarine.a substitute.We've got a sub in English this week because our teacher's home with the flu.a submarine sandwich.a submissive in a BDSM sexual encounter or relationship.a subcontractor.a subordinate.a subaltern.British, an advance against one's wages, especially one granted as a subsistence allowance.Photography: a substratum.to act as a substitute for another.to act as the submissive partner in a BDSM sexual encounter or relationship.Photography. to coat (a film or plate) with a substratum.supplemental unemployment benefits.a prefix occurring originally in loanwords from Latin (subject; subtract; subvert; subsidy); on this model, freely attached to elements of any origin and used with the meaning "under," "below," "beneath" (subalpine; substratum), "slightly," "imperfectly," "nearly" (subcolumnar; subtropical), "secondary," "subordinate" (subcommittee; subplot).Chemistry, a prefix indicating a basic compound.subacetate; subcarbonate; subnitrate.a prefix indicating that the element is present in a relatively small proportion, i.e., in a low oxidation state.subordinated.subscription.substitute.suburb.suburban.subway." Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012(intr) to serve as a substituteinformal (intr) to act as a substitute (for)informal to grant or receive (an advance payment of wages or salary)informal (tr) short for subedit(tr) photog to apply a substratum to (a film or plate base)" Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012situated under or beneathsecondary in rank; subordinatefalling short of; less than or imperfectforming a subdivision or subordinate part of a wholeindicating that a compound contains a relatively small proportion of a specified elementindicating that a salt is basic salt" Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012A prefix that means "underneath or lower" (as in subsoil), "a subordinate or secondary part of something else" (as in subphylum.), or "less than completely" (as in subtropical.)Origin of sub-1By shortening of words prefixed with sub-Origin of sub-2< Latin, combining form representing sub (preposition); akin to Greek hypō; hypo-Origin of sub-1Examples have not been reviewed.I think they will be more hyped in the second half to be subbed on - maybe a bit earlier than last game!Disaster struck with Fishlock sidelined for a month leading into the match with a calf injury, fit enough only to start as a sub in the away leg.Doherty, wearing the number 10 and a brown hat, played about five minutes before being subbed off to do a soundcheck at nearby Dreamland ahead of a concert the same day.Starting in that 2009 season, he went on a run of sub-3.00 ERA campaigns in 11 of his next 12 years.A "sound, preventative concept" includes cooling breaks in the 30th and 75th minutes, the right to use five substitutions and an additional sub if a match goes into extra time.suavitysubacetateBrowse#aabccddeeffgghhiijklmmnooppqrrssttuuvvwwxyzz>AboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC In the ever-evolving landscape of slang, the term "sub" holds a variety of meanings depending on context and community. From online gaming to the dating world, "sub" can refer to different roles, types, and personalities. This article will explore the diverse interpretations of the term "sub," providing engaging examples and case studies to illustrate its use. Definitions of Sub in Slang The slang term "sub" can have several interpretations, largely defined by the context in which it is used. Here are the primary meanings: Submissive: In the world of BDSM, "sub" is short for submissive. This individual willingly gives up control to a dominant partner. Subscriber: On platforms such as Twitch or YouTube, a "sub" refers to someone who subscribes to a channel, often paying for exclusive content. Substitute: In sports, a "sub" is a player who substitutes another; it can also apply in academic contexts where a substitute teacher fills in. Submarine Sandwich: Informally, "sub" can also refer to a popular sandwich style, especially in American slang. Submissive in BDSM One of the most recognized meanings of "sub" in contemporary slang is its connection to BDSM (Bondage, Discipline, Dominance, Submission, Sadism, and Masochism). A submissive individual often engages in power exchange dynamics where they consensually give up control to a dominant partner. The relationship is built on mutual trust, boundaries, and communication. Case Study: The Rise of Interest in BDSM A significant cultural shift in the acceptance of BDSM practices emerged with the popularity of E.L. James's "Fifty Shades of Grey" series. According to a 2018 survey by the Kinsey Institute, over 31% of women and 25% of men reported trying BDSM at least once. Data Point 1: The popularity of the term "sub" as it relates to BDSM has seen a 300% increase in online searches since 2011. Data Point 2: According to Google Trends, interest in BDSM-related terms surged dramatically from 2015 onward, indicating a higher recognition of sub cultures. Subscriber in Digital Culture In the world of online platforms, particularly in gaming and content creation, the term "sub" refers to subscribers. Twitch and YouTube allow fans to support their favorite creators through a subscription model. This not only grants fans access to exclusive content but also fosters a sense of community among creators and their audience. Statistics on Online Subscriptions Twitch Statistics: Over 10 million active users are subscribing to various channels on Twitch as of 2023. YouTube Revenue: In 2020 alone, YouTube generated over \$15 billion in ad revenue, indicating the financial power of subscription models. Substitutes in Sports and Academics The word "sub" is also widely used in various sporting contexts to denote a substitute player. In team sports like football (soccer), basketball, and baseball, substitutes can change the dynamics of a game and are often crucial for a team's strategy. Moreover, in academics, a substitute teacher is referred to informally as a "sub," who steps in to teach when the regular teacher is unavailable. Importance of Substitutes Team Resilience: Having effective substitutes enhances a team's resilience and performance. Class Continuity: Substitute teachers provide continuity in education, maintaining the learning environment for students. Submarine Sandwich In a more casual context, "sub" can refer to a beloved American sandwich, known as a submarine sandwich or hero. These sandwiches are typically filled with various meats, cheeses, vegetables, and condiments, served on a long roll. Popular Ingredients: Common fillings include turkey, ham, salami, lettuce, tomato, and mayonnaise. Regional Variations: The name varies regionally: "hoagie" in Philadelphia, "grinder" in New England, and "hero" in New York. Conclusion As we have explored, the term "sub" encompasses various meanings in contemporary slang. Whether it refers to the dynamics of relationships within the BDSM community, the subscriber economy of digital platforms, or the casual enjoyment of a submarine sandwich, the term is a testament to language's evolution in cultural contexts. As new trends emerge, the understanding of slang will continue to expand, reflecting the fluid nature of communication in our society.

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