

agency

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Etymology

From Medieval Latin *agentia*, from Latin *agēns* (present participle of *agere* (“to act”)), *agentis* (cognate with French *agence*, see also *agent*).

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /ˈeɪ.ɹ̩.dʒə.n.si/
- Audio (US) (file)

Noun

agency (*countable and uncountable, plural agencies*)

1. The capacity, condition, or state of acting or of exerting power.

Synonyms: action, activity, operation

- **1695**, John Woodward, "(please specify the page)", in *An Essay toward a Natural History of the Earth: And Terrestrial Bodies, Especially Minerals*: [...], London: [...] Ric[hard] Wilkin [...], OCLC 1179517876 (<https://worldcat.org/oclc/1179517876>):

A few advances there are in the following papers tending to assert the superintendence and **agency** of Providence in the natural world.

- **2018**, Morris Zelditch, *Status, Power, and Legitimacy*, page 65:

Because structure in this argument means institutions— pregiven norms, values, beliefs, and practices— it is open-textured, incomplete, cannot guarantee its own applications, therefore, all behavior is action, has **agency** (Garfinkel 1964; Strauss et al. 1963).

2. (*sociology, philosophy, psychology*) The capacity of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices.

Coordinate terms: free will, structure
*moral **agency***
*individual **agency***

- **2001**, Todd McGowan, *The Feminine "No!"*, SUNY Press, →ISBN, page 105 (https://books.google.com/books?id=K_BOEohXedgC&pg=PA105&dq=%22agency%22):

Formally, capitalism performs its fundamental gesture—reappropriation without transformation. This bears on the question of subjective **agency** because this "reappropriation without transformation" is exactly what **agency** seeks to avoid; such a process indicates, in fact, that one's **agency** has failed, that one really had no **agency** in the first place.

- **2012**, Edmund V. Sullivan, *A Critical Psychology*, Springer Science & Business Media, →ISBN, page 75 (<https://books.google.com/books?id=p5JyBgAAQBAJ&pg=PA75&dq=%22agency%22>):

Strictly speaking, at the level of personal **agency** one could say that power is a condition where one is "enabled." I would contend that this is a condition of personal **agency**.

- **2013**, Andy Clark; Julian Kiverstein; Tillmann Vierkant, *Decomposing the Will*, Oxford University Press, →ISBN, page 112 (<https://books.google.com/books?id=zu9oAgAAQBAJ&pg=PA112&dq=%22agency%22>):

The feeling of being in control of one's body should involve the sense of body-ownership, plus an additional sense of **agency**.

3. A medium through which power is exerted or an end is achieved.

Synonyms: instrumentality, means

4. The office or function of an agent; also, the relationship between a principal and that person's agent.

*authority of **agency***

5. An establishment engaged in doing business for another; also, the place of business or the district of such an agency.

Synonym: management

Hyponyms: advertising agency, dating agency, employment agency, escort agency, introduction agency, modelling agency, news agency, press agency, relief agency, syndication agency, travel agency

- **2012**, Simon Toms, *The Impact of the UK Temporary Employment Industry in Assisting Agency Workers since the Year 2000*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, →ISBN, page 277:

As an employment **agency** you have a responsibility to supply work to the individual **agency** worker, as well as a service to the client.

6. A department or other administrative unit of a government; also, the office or headquarters of, or the district administered by such unit of government.

Hyponyms: antitrust agency, intelligence agency, space agency

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Central Intelligence **Agency**

Derived terms

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ▪ <u>advertising agency</u> | ▪ <u>dating agency</u> | ▪ <u>news agency</u> |
| ▪ <u>agency credit memo</u> | ▪ <u>employment agency</u> | ▪ <u>nonagency</u> |
| ▪ <u>agency debit memo</u> | ▪ <u>escort agency</u> | ▪ <u>press agency</u> |
| ▪ <u>agency pricing</u> | ▪ <u>estate agency</u> | ▪ <u>regulatory agency</u> |
| ▪ <u>agency shop</u> | ▪ <u>free agency</u> | ▪ <u>relief agency</u> |
| ▪ <u>alphabet agency</u> | ▪ <u>Highways Agency</u> | ▪ <u>service agency</u> |
| ▪ <u>causal agency</u> | ▪ <u>intelligence agency</u> | ▪ <u>space agency</u> |
| ▪ <u>coagency</u> | ▪ <u>interagency</u> | ▪ <u>subagency</u> |
| ▪ <u>Crow Agency</u> | ▪ <u>interagency</u> | ▪ <u>superagency</u> |
| ▪ <u>cyberagency</u> | ▪ <u>introduction agency</u> | ▪ <u>syndication agency</u> |
| ▪ <u>dating agency</u> | ▪ <u>marriage agency</u> | ▪ <u>travel agency</u> |

Related terms

- act
- action
- agent

Translations

capacity of acting or of exerting power

- Arabic: فَاعِلِيَّة *f* (fā'iliyya)
- Bulgarian: дѐйствие *(bg)* *n* (dējstvie), въздѐйствие *(bg)* *n* (văzdējstvie)
- Catalan: agència *(ca)* *f*
- Chinese:

Mandarin: 能动性 *(zh)*, 能动性 *(zh)* (néngdòngxìng)

- Dutch: macht *(nl)*, kracht *(nl)*
- Finnish: toiminta *(fi)*
- French: capacité d'agir *f*
- Galician: axencia *(gl)* *f*
- Georgian: ძოქძეცუბა (mokmedeba), ნება (neba)
- German: Wille *(de)* *m*.
- Hungarian: tevékenység *(hu)*, működés *(hu)*, hatóerő *(hu)*
- Indonesian: lembaga *(id)*
- Occitan: agència *(oc)* *f*
- Persian: فاعليه (fâ'eliye)
- Polish: sprawczość *(pl)* *f*
- Russian: дѐйствие *(ru)* *n* (dējstvije), воздѐйствие *(ru)* *n* (vozdējstvije)
- Serbo-Croatian:

Cyrillic: посредство *n*

Roman: posredstvo *(sh)* *n*

- Spanish: albedrío *(es)* *m*.
- Swedish: agens *(sv)* *ç*, förmåga *(sv)* *ç*, handlingskraft *(sv)* *ç*
- Tagalog: kabisaan

capacity of individuals to act independently

- Chinese:

Mandarin: 能动性 *(zh)*, 能动性 *(zh)* (néngdòngxìng)

- Finnish: toimijuus
- French: agentivité *(fr)* *f* (*philosophy*)
- German: Agency *(de)* (*philosophy*), Handlungsfähigkeit *(de)* *f* (*philosophy*)
- Hungarian: cselekvőképesség *(hu)*
- Spanish: agencia *(es)* *f* (*philosophy*)
- Swedish: agens *(sv)* *ç*, förmåga *(sv)* *ç*, handlingskraft *(sv)* *ç*

medium through which power is exerted

- Hungarian: közvetítő *(hu)*, eszköz *(hu)*, ágens *(hu)*
- Serbo-Croatian: agens *(sh)* *m*.

office of an agent, or relation between a principal and his agent

- Arabic: وكالة *f* (wikāla)
- Bulgarian: посрѐдничество *(bg)* *n* (posrédničestvo), агѐнтство *(bg)* *n* (agéntstvo)

- Catalan: agència [\(ca\)](#) *f*
- Danish: agentbureau *n*
- Dutch: bureau [\(nl\)](#)
- Esperanto: agentejo
- Finnish: edustus [\(fi\)](#), agentuuri [\(fi\)](#)
- French: agence [\(fr\)](#) *f*
- Galician: axencia [\(gl\)](#) *f*
- Georgian: სააგენტო (saagento)
- German: Agentur [\(de\)](#) *f*
- Hindi: एजेंसी [\(hi\)](#) *f* (ejensī)
- Hungarian: közbenjárás [\(hu\)](#), közreműködés [\(hu\)](#)
- Irish: gníomhaireacht *f*
- Occitan: agència [\(oc\)](#) *f*
- Polish: agencja [\(pl\)](#) *f*
- Russian: агѐнтство [\(ru\)](#) *n* (agéntstvo)
- Serbo-Croatian: agencija [\(sh\)](#) *f*
- Spanish: agencia [\(es\)](#) *f*
- Swedish: agentur [\(sv\)](#) *ç*
- Tagalog: kagawaan
- Turkish: acentelik [\(tr\)](#)
- Ukrainian: агѐнція [\(uk\)](#) *f* (ahéncija)

establishment engaged in doing business for another

- Albanian: agjenci [\(sq\)](#) *f*
- Arabic: وَكَالَة *f* (wakāla)
- Armenian: գործալսիլընթընլս [\(hy\)](#) (gorcakalut'yun)
- Belarusian: агѐнцтва *n* (ahjénc'tva), агѐнцыя *f* (ahjéncyja)
- Bulgarian: агѐнция [\(bg\)](#) *f* (agéncija)
- Catalan: agència [\(ca\)](#) *f*
- Chinese:

Mandarin: 機構 [\(zh\)](#), 机构 [\(zh\)](#) (jīgòu)

- Czech: agentura [\(cs\)](#) *f*, kancelář [\(cs\)](#) *f*
- Danish: bureau [\(da\)](#) *n*
- Dutch: agentuur [\(nl\)](#) *f*
- Esperanto: agentejo
- Estonian: agentuur
- Finnish: toimisto [\(fi\)](#), agentuuri [\(fi\)](#), välitystoimisto
- French: agence [\(fr\)](#) *f*, action [\(fr\)](#) *f*, organisme [\(fr\)](#) *m*.
- Galician: axencia [\(gl\)](#) *f*
- Georgian: სააგენტო (saagento)
- German: Agentur [\(de\)](#) *f*
- Greek: πρακτορείο [\(el\)](#) *n* (praktoreío)
- Hebrew: סוכנות *f* (sokhnút)
- Hindi: एजेंसी [\(hi\)](#) *f* (ejensī)

- Hungarian: ügynökség [\(hu\)](#)
- Irish: gníomhaireacht *f*
- Italian: agenzia [\(it\)](#) *f*
- Japanese: 代理店 [\(ja\)](#) (だいいりてん, dairiten)
- Korean: 대리점(代理店) [\(ko\)](#) (daerijeom)
- Ladino: adjensia
- Latvian: aģentūra *f*
- Lithuanian: agentūra [\(lt\)](#) *f*
- Macedonian: агенција *f* (agencija)
- Norwegian:

Bokmål: byrå *n*

- Occitan: agèncià [\(oc\)](#) *f*
- Persian: آژانس [\(fa\)](#) (âžâns), نمایندگی [\(fa\)](#) (namâyandegi), وکالت [\(fa\)](#) (vekâlat) (*now usually a lawyer's agency*)
- Polish: agencja [\(pl\)](#) *f*
- Portuguese: agência [\(pt\)](#) *f*
- Romanian: agenție [\(ro\)](#) *f*, agentură [\(ro\)](#) *f*
- Russian: аге́нтство [\(ru\)](#) *n* (agéntstvo)
- Serbo-Croatian:

Cyrillic: аге́нција *f*

Roman: agèncija [\(sh\)](#) *f*







- Slovak: agentúra *f*, kancelária *f*
- Slovene: agencija *f*
- Swedish: byrå [\(sv\)](#) *ç*, agentur [\(sv\)](#) *ç*
- Spanish: oficina [\(es\)](#) *f*, agencia [\(es\)](#) *f*
- Tagalog: ahensya, kagawaan
- Tajik: агенти [\(tg\)](#) (agenti)
- Thai: เอเย่นต์, องค์การ [\(th\)](#) (ong-gaan)
- Turkish: ajans [\(tr\)](#)
- Ukrainian: аге́нтство [\(uk\)](#) *n* (ahéntstvo), аге́нція [\(uk\)](#) *f* (ahéncija)
- Vietnamese: cơ quan [\(vi\)](#) (機關)

government office

- Arabic: دَائِرَة [\(ar\)](#) *f* (dā'ira)
- Danish: myndighedskontor *n*
- Finnish: virasto [\(fi\)](#), toimisto [\(fi\)](#)
- Galician: axencia [\(gl\)](#) *f*
- Georgian: სააგენტო (saagento)
- German: Behörde [\(de\)](#) *f*
- Hindi: एजेंसी [\(hi\)](#) *f* (ejensī)
- Hungarian: ügynökség [\(hu\)](#), képviselő [\(hu\)](#), kirendeltség [\(hu\)](#), fiók [\(hu\)](#), hivatal [\(hu\)](#), szerv [\(hu\)](#), iroda [\(hu\)](#), cég [\(hu\)](#)
- Indonesian: lembaga [\(id\)](#)

- Latin: ministerium *n*
- Mòcheno: omt *n*
- Occitan: agència *(oc)* *f*
- Polish: agencja *(pl)* *f*
- Portuguese: agência *(pt)*
- Russian: аге́нтство *(ru)* *n* (agéntstvo), о́рган *(ru)* *m.* (órgan)
- Serbo-Croatian: agencija *(sh)* *f*
- Slovene: agencija *f*
- Spanish: agencia *(es)* *f*
- Swedish: verk *(sv)* *n*, byrå *(sv)* *♀*
- Tagalog: kagawaan

Further reading

- agency (<https://www.websters1913.com/words/Agency>) in *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*, G. & C. Merriam, 1913
-  agency on Wikipedia.
-  agency (sociology) on Wikipedia.
-  agency (philosophy) on Wikipedia.
-  law of agency on Wikipedia.
-  moral agency on Wikipedia.
-  structure and agency on Wikipedia.

Part or all of this entry has been imported from the 1913 edition of Webster's Dictionary, which is now free of copyright and hence in the public domain. The imported definitions may be significantly out of date, and any more recent senses may be completely missing.

(See the entry for agency (<https://www.websters1913.com/words/Agency>) in Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, G. & C. Merriam, 1913)

Anagrams

- Cagney, gynæc-

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Agency - definition of agency by The Free Dictionary

<https://www.thefreedictionary.com/agency>

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agency

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Related to agency: [Agency theory](#), [Job agency](#)

a·gen·cy (ă'jən-sē)

n. pl. a·gen·cies

1. The condition of being in action; operation.
2. The means or mode of acting; instrumentality.
3.
 - a. A business with agents that negotiate deals for clients: *a talent agency; a real estate agency*.
 - b. An advertising or public relations firm.
4. An administrative division of a government or international body.

[Medieval Latin *agentia*, from Latin *agēns*, agent-, present participle of *agere*, to do; see **agent**.]

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agency (ˈeɪdʒənsɪ)

n, pl -cies

1. (Commerce) a business or other organization providing a specific service: *an employment agency*.
2. (Commerce) the place where an agent conducts business
3. (Commerce) the business, duties, or functions of an agent
4. action, power, or operation: *the agency of fate*.
5. intercession or mediation
6. (Government, Politics & Diplomacy) one of the administrative organizations of a government

[C17: from Medieval Latin *agentia*, from Latin *agere* to do]

Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014

a·gen·cy (ˈeɪ dʒən si)

n., pl. -cies.

1. an organization, company, or bureau that provides a particular service: *a welfare agency*.
2. a government bureau or administrative division.
3. a company having a franchise to represent another.
4. the duty or function of an agent.
5. the place of business of an agent.
6. a means of exerting power or influence; instrumentality.

[1650–60; < Medieval Latin]


Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved.

agency

In intelligence usage, an organization or individual engaged in collecting and/or processing information. Also called collection agency. See also agent; intelligence process; source.

Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms. US Department of Defense 2005.

Thesaurus


Legend:  Synonyms  Related Words  Antonyms


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Noun 1. agency - an administrative unit of government; "the Central Intelligence Agency"; "the Census Bureau"; "Office of Management and Budget"; "Tennessee Valley Authority"


 **bureau, federal agency, government agency, office, authority**


 **administrative body, administrative unit** - a unit with administrative responsibilities


 **executive agency** - an agency of the executive branch of government


 **FDA, Food and Drug Administration** - a federal agency in the Department of Health and Human Services established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products


 **CDC, Center for Disease Control and Prevention** - a federal agency in the Department of Health and Human Services; located in Atlanta; investigates and diagnoses and tries to control or prevent diseases (especially new and unusual diseases)


 **Counterterrorist Center, CTC** - an agency that helps the Director of Central Intelligence coordinate counterterrorist efforts in order to preempt and disrupt and defeat terrorist activities at the earliest possible stage


 **Nonproliferation Center, NPC** - an agency that serves as the focal point for all Intelligence Community activities related to nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their missile delivery systems

 **Bureau of the Census, Census Bureau** - the bureau of the Commerce Department responsible for taking the census; provides demographic information and analyses about the population of the United States

 **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA** - an agency in the Department of Commerce that maps the oceans and conserves their living resources; predicts changes to the earth's environment; provides weather reports and forecasts floods and hurricanes and other natural disasters related to weather

 **National Climatic Data Center, NCDC** - the part of NOAA that maintains the world's largest active archive of weather data

 **National Weather Service** - the federal agency in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that is responsible for weather forecast and preparation of weather maps

 **Technology Administration** - an agency in the Department of Commerce that works with United States industries to promote competitiveness and maximize the impact of technology on economic growth

 **National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST** - an agency in the Technology Administration that



makes measurements and sets standards as needed by industry or government programs

↔ **National Technical Information Service, NTIS** - an agency in the Technology Administration that is a primary resource for government-funded scientific and technical and engineering and business related information

↔ **DARPA, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency** - the central research and development organization for the United States Department of Defense; responsible for developing new surveillance technologies since 9/11

↔ **Department of Defense Laboratory System, LABLINK** - a defense laboratory that provides essential services in fundamental science for national security and environmental protection and provides technologies that contribute to industrial competitiveness

↔ **Department of Energy Intelligence, DOEI** - an agency that collects political and economic and technical information about energy matters and makes the Department of Energy's technical and analytical expertise available to other members of the Intelligence Community

↔ **PHS, United States Public Health Service** - an agency that serves as the office of Surgeon General; includes agencies whose mission is to improve the public health

↔ **National Institutes of Health, NIH** - an agency in the Department of Health and Human Services whose mission is to employ science in the pursuit of knowledge to improve human health; is the principal biomedical research agency of the federal government

↔ **BJA, Bureau of Justice Assistance** - the bureau in the Department of Justice that assists local criminal justice systems to reduce or prevent crime and violence and drug abuse

↔ **BJS, Bureau of Justice Statistics** - the agency in the Department of Justice that is the primary source of criminal justice statistics for federal and local policy makers

↔ **Immigration and Naturalization Service, INS** - an agency in the Department of Justice that enforces laws and regulations for the admission of foreign-born persons to the United States

↔ **United States Border Patrol, US Border Patrol** - the mobile law enforcement arm of the Immigration and Naturalization Service that detects and prevents illegal entry of aliens into the United States

↔ **Bureau of Diplomatic Security, DS** - the bureau in the State Department that is responsible for the security of diplomats and embassies overseas

↔ **Foreign Service** - the part of the State Department that supplies diplomats for the United States embassies and consulates around the world

↔ **Bureau of Intelligence and Research, INR** - an agency that is the primary source in the State Department for interpretive analyses of global developments and focal point for policy issues and activities of the Intelligence Community

↔ **FWS, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service** - an agency in the Department of the Interior that conserves and protects fish and wildlife and their habitats; assesses the environmental impact of pesticides and nuclear power site and hydroelectric dams and thermal pollution

2. **agency** - a business that serves other businesses

↔ **business, business concern, business organisation, business organization, concern** - a commercial or industrial enterprise and the people who constitute it; "he bought his brother's business"; "a small mom-and-pop business"; "a racially integrated business concern"

↔ **ad agency, advertising agency** - an agency that designs advertisement to call public attention to its clients

↔ **credit bureau** - a private firm that maintains consumer credit data files and provides credit information to

authorized users for a fee

↔ **detective agency** - an agency that makes inquiries for its clients

↔ **employment agency, employment office** - an agency that finds people to fill particular jobs or finds jobs for unemployed people

↔ **commercial agency, mercantile agency** - an organization that provides businesses with credit ratings of other firms; "Dun & Bradstreet is the largest mercantile agency in the United States"

↔ **news agency, news organisation, news organization, press agency, press association, wire service** - an agency that collects news reports for newspapers and distributes it electronically

↔ **service agency, service bureau, service firm** - a business that makes its facilities available to others for a fee; achieves economy of scale

↔ **travel agency** - an agency that arranges personal travel

↔ **transfer agent** - an agency (usually a bank) that is appointed by a corporation to keep records of its stock and bond owners and to resolve problems about certificates

3. agency - the state of being in action or exerting power; "the agency of providence"; "she has free agency"

↔ **activeness, activity, action** - the state of being active; "his sphere of activity"; "he is out of action"

↔ **Frankenstein** - an agency that escapes control and destroys its creator

4. agency - the state of serving as an official and authorized delegate or agent

≡ **delegacy, representation**

↔ **state** - the way something is with respect to its main attributes; "the current state of knowledge"; "his state of health"; "in a weak financial state"

↔ **free agency** - (sports) the state of a professional athlete who is free to negotiate a contract to play for any team

↔ **legal representation** - personal representation that has legal status; "an person who has been declared incompetent should have legal representation"

↔ **virus** - a harmful or corrupting agency; "bigotry is a virus that must not be allowed to spread"; "the virus of jealousy is latent in everyone"

5. agency - how a result is obtained or an end is achieved; "a means of control"; "an example is the best agency of instruction"; "the true way to success"

≡ **means, way**

↔ **effectuation, implementation** - the act of implementing (providing a practical means for accomplishing something); carrying into effect

↔ **dint** - interchangeable with 'means' in the expression 'by means of'

↔ **escape** - a means or way of escaping; "hard work was his escape from worry"; "they installed a second hatch as an escape"; "their escape route"

↔ **fast track** - a rapid means of achieving a goal; "they saw independence as the fast track to democracy"; "he took a fast track to the top of the corporate ladder"; "the company went off the fast track when the stock market dropped"

↔ **instrument, tool** - the means whereby some act is accomplished; "my greed was the instrument of my destruction"; "science has given us new tools to fight disease"

↔ **road** - a way or means to achieve something; "the road to fame"



- ↔ **stepping stone** - any means of advancement; "the job was just a stepping stone on his way to fame and riches"
- ↔ **expedient** - a means to an end; not necessarily a principled or ethical one
- ↔ **desperate measure** - desperate actions taken as a means to an end; "he had to resort to desperate measures"
- ↔ **open sesame** - any very successful means of achieving a result
- ↔ **salvation** - a means of preserving from harm or unpleasantness; "tourism was their economic salvation"; "they turned to individualism as their salvation"
- ↔ **tooth** - a means of enforcement; "the treaty had no teeth in it"
- ↔ **voice** - a means or agency by which something is expressed or communicated; "the voice of the law"; "the Times is not the voice of New York"; "conservatism has many voices"
- ↔ **wings** - a means of flight or ascent; "necessity lends wings to inspiration"

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agency

noun

- ≡ **business, company, office, firm, department, organization, enterprise, establishment, bureau** *a successful advertising agency*
- (Old-fashioned) ≡ **medium, work, means, force, power, action, operation, activity, influence, vehicle, instrument, intervention, mechanism, efficiency, mediation, auspices, intercession, instrumentality** *a negotiated settlement through the agency of the UN*

Collins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002

agency *noun*

- That by which something is accomplished or some end achieved:
 - ≡ **agent, instrument, instrumentality, instrumentation, intermediary, mean** (used in plural), **mechanism, medium, organ**.
- A component of government that performs a given function:
 - ≡ **arm, branch, department, division, organ, wing**.

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Translations

Select a language:

Spanish / Español ▼

agencia

agency

[ˈeɪdʒənsɪ]

A. N

1. (= office) → **agencia** *f*

see also **advertising**, **travel D**

2. (= branch) → **delegación** *f*

3. (= institution) → **organismo** *m*

International Atomic Energy Agency → **Organismo** *m* **Internacional** de **Energía Atómica**

4. (= mediation) *through the agency of* → **por medio de**, por la **mediación** de

B. CPD Agency for International Development *N (US)* → **Agencia** *f* para el **Desarrollo Internacional**

Collins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005

agent

[ˈeɪdʒənt] *noun*

1. a person or thing that acts. *detergents and other cleaning agents*. **agente**

2. a person who acts for someone in business etc. *our agent in London; a theatrical agent*. **agente**

3. (especially **secret agent**) a spy. *an agent for the Russians*. **agente**

'**agency** – plural '**agencies** – *noun*

the office or business of an agent. *an advertising agency*. **agencia**

by/through the agency of

by the action of. *The meeting was arranged through the agency of a friend*. **por medio de**

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agency

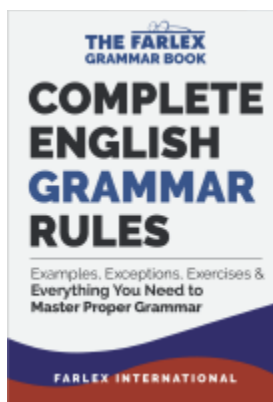
→ **agencia**

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agency

n (pl -cies) *agencia*

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Est. 1828



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agency

noun

agen·cy ['ā-jən\(t\)-sē](#) 

plural agencies

[Synonyms of agency](#) 

1

a

: the office or function of an agent (see [agent sense 4](#))

b

: the relationship between a principal and that person's agent

2

: the capacity, condition, or state of acting or of exerting power : [operation](#)

3

: a person or thing through which power is exerted or an end is achieved : [instrumentality](#)
communicated through the agency of the ambassador

4

: an establishment engaged in doing business for another
an advertising agency

5

: an administrative division (as of a government)
the agency for consumer protection

Synonyms

- [arm](#)
- [branch](#)
- [bureau](#)
- [department](#)
- [desk](#)
- [division](#)
- [office](#)
- [service](#)

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Example Sentences

the federal *agency* in charge of printing money The employment *agency* helps those who have been recently laid off find jobs.

Recent Examples on the Web The *agency* said Thursday that Athena's sister was found outside Alysia Adams' home. — Minyvonne Burke, *NBC News*, 14 Jan. 2023 The *agency* said the process twisted the star into a donut-like shape in the process. — Julia Musto, *Fox News*, 14 Jan. 2023 The *agency* said that 2022 saw the most people in five years arrive from Libya, the main departure point in northern Africa. — *BostonGlobe.com*, 13 Jan. 2023 [See More](#)

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Word History

Etymology

[ag\(ent\)](#) + [-ency](#), perhaps after Medieval Latin *agentia*, derivative of *agent-*, *agens* [agent](#)

First Known Use

1640, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *agency* was in 1640

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- [travel agency](#)
- [press agency](#)
- [employment agency](#)
- [sub-agency](#)
- [through the agency of](#)
- [news agency](#)
- [ticket agency](#)

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- [agency shop](#)
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Kids Definition

agency

noun

agen·cy ['ā-jən-sē](#) 

plural agencies

1

: the office or function of an agent

2

: a person or thing through which power is used or something is achieved : [means](#)

3

: an establishment doing business for another

an insurance *agency*

4

: a part of a government that manages projects in a certain area

a health *agency*

Legal Definition

agency

noun

agen·cy

plural agencies

1

: the person or thing through which power is exerted or an end is achieved

death by criminal agency—W. R. LaFare and A. W. Scott, Jr.

2

a

: a consensual fiduciary relationship in which one party acts on behalf of and under the control of another in dealing with third parties

also : the power of one in such a relationship to act on behalf of another

Note: A principal is bound by and liable for acts of his or her agent that are within the scope of the agency.

— actual agency

: the agency that exists when an agent is in fact employed by a principal → see also [express agency](#) and implied agency in this entry

— agency by estoppel

: an agency that is not created as an actual agency by a principal and an agent but that is imposed by law when a principal acts in such a way as to lead a third party to reasonably believe that another is the principal's agent and the third party is injured by relying on and acting in accordance with that belief

Note: A principal has a duty to correct a third party's mistaken belief in an agent's authority to act on the principal's behalf. If the principal could have corrected the misunderstanding but failed to do so, he or she is estopped from denying the existence of the agency and is bound by the agent's acts in dealing with the third party.

— agency coupled with an interest

: an agency in which the agent has an interest in the property regarding which he or she is acting on the principal's behalf

— apparent agency

: agency by estoppel in this entry

— exclusive agency

: an agency common in real estate sales in which the property owner agrees to employ no agents to sell the property other than the one hired for a specified period

— express agency

: an actual agency created by the written or spoken words of the principal authorizing the agent to act → compare implied agency in this entry

— general agency

: an agency in which the agent is authorized to perform on behalf of the principal in all matters in furtherance of a particular business of the principal → compare special agency in this entry

— implied agency

: an actual agency created by acts of a principal that reasonably imply an intention to create an agency relationship → compare express agency in this entry

— ostensible agency

: agency by estoppel in this entry

— special agency

: an agency in which the agent is authorized to perform only specified acts or to act only in a specified transaction → compare general agency in this entry

— universal agency

: general agency in this entry

b

: the office and function of an agent

even when granted discretion in carrying out his agency— R. C. Clark

c

: the law concerned with the relationship of a principal and an agent

3

: an establishment engaged in doing the business of another: as

a

: an establishment authorized by an insurance company to sell insurance policies and provide services offered by the insurer

b

: an establishment authorized by property owners to find a buyer for their property

Note: Many businesses that use the term *agency* are not truly agencies as defined in sense 2.

4

: a department or other unit of government created by legislation to administer the law in a particular area of public concern

→ called also administrative agency

→ see also [enabling statute](#), [exhaustion of remedies](#), [Administrative Procedure Act](#)

Note: When a legislature determines that government involvement is needed in a particular social activity or problem, it may write legislation creating an agency either directly or by authorizing the executive to set it up. Agencies exist at the federal, state, and local levels. Most federal agencies are attached to the executive branch of government. Some agencies (such as the Environmental Protection Agency) are called an agency. An agency may, however, be called such other names as *board* (as the National Labor Relations Board), *commission* (as the Securities and Exchange Commission), *administration* (as the Social Security Administration), and *service* (as the Internal Revenue Service). Agencies at the federal level are governed by the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, which is found at title 5 of the U.S. Code.

— independent agency

: an agency that is not part of any of the three branches of government

— regulatory agency

: an agency that is authorized by the legislature to establish and enforce rules regulating its particular area of concern —often used interchangeably with *agency* or *administrative agency*

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