

Need another word that means the same as “abstain”? Find 11 synonyms and 30 related words for “abstain” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Abstain” are: desist, refrain, hold back, forbear, keep, be teetotal, be a teetotaler, take the pledge, not vote, decline to vote, refuse to vote

Abstain as a Verb

Definitions of "Abstain" as a verb

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), “abstain” as a verb can have the following definitions:

- *Refrain from drinking alcohol.*
- *Choose not to consume.*
- *Restrain oneself from doing or enjoying something.*
- *Formally decline to vote either for or against a proposal or motion.*
- *Refrain from voting.*



Synonyms of "Abstain" as a verb (11 Words)

be a teetotaller	Happen, occur, take place.
be teetotal	Have the quality of being; (copula, used with an adjective or a predicate noun.
decline to vote	Grow worse.
desist	Choose not to consume. <i>Each pledged to desist from acts of sabotage.</i>
forbear	Politely or patiently restrain an impulse to do something; refrain. <i>Rebecca could not forbear a smile.</i>
hold back	To close within bounds limit or hold back from movement.
<u>keep</u>	Look after be the keeper of have charge of. <i>Keep count.</i>
not vote	Bring into existence or make available by vote.

refrain

Choose not to consume.

He **refrained** from hitting him back.

refuse to vote Refuse entrance or membership.

take the pledge Experience or feel or submit to.



Usage Examples of "Abstain" as a verb

- *Forty-one voted with the Opposition, and some sixty more abstained.*

- *I abstain from alcohol.*
- *She intends to abstain from sex before marriage.*
- *Most pregnant women abstain or drink very little.*

Associations of "Abstain" (30 Words)

abdicate	Give up, such as power, as of monarchs and emperors, or duties and obligations. <i>Ferdinand abdicated the throne in favour of the emperor's brother.</i>
abjure	Solemnly renounce (a belief, cause, or claim). <i>She abjured her beliefs.</i>
<u>abstention</u>	The trait of abstaining (especially from alcohol). <i>A resolution passed by 126 votes to none with six abstentions.</i>
ballot	Vote by ballot. <i>He won 54 per cent of the ballot.</i>
<u>cease</u>	Cease is a noun only in the phrase without cease end. <i>They were asked to cease all military activity.</i>
cede	Relinquish possession or control over. <i>In 1874 the islands were ceded to Britain.</i>
choice	One of a number of things from which only one can be chosen. <i>I had to do it I had no choice.</i>
dereliction	A tendency to be negligent and uncaring. <i>A gross dereliction of duty by the Secretary of State.</i>
<u>elect</u>	Select by a vote for an office or membership. <i>An elect circle of artists.</i>
election	The act of selecting someone or something; the exercise of deliberate choice. <i>Her election of medicine as a profession.</i>
elector	In the US a member of the electoral college. <i>Close to 60 per cent of the 60 000 registered electors voted.</i>
foreswear	Turn away from; give up. <i>I am foreswearing women forever.</i>
<u>forgo</u>	Go without (something desirable). <i>We forgo any comparison between the two men.</i>
forswear	Agree to give up or do without. <i>I swore that I would lead us safely home and I do not mean to be forsworn.</i>
<u>give</u>	Give or supply. <i>For your entertainment this evening I give you Mister Albert DeNero.</i>

hustings	The activities involved in political campaigning (especially speech making). <i>Mrs Jones organized two public hustings.</i>
presidency	A council of three officers forming the highest administrative body in Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Churches. <i>The presidency of the United States.</i>
president	The celebrant at a Eucharist. <i>The president of the European Union.</i>
quit	Leave (a place), usually permanently. <i>I want to quit smoking.</i>
refrain	The part of a song where a soloist is joined by a group of singers. <i>She refrained from comment.</i>
relinquish	Do without or cease to hold or adhere to. <i>He relinquished his managerial role to become chief executive.</i>
renounce	Leave (a job, post, or position) voluntarily. <i>He renounced alcohol completely.</i>
resign	Voluntarily leave a job or office. <i>The chairman resigned over the financial scandal.</i>
surrender	The action of surrendering to an opponent or powerful influence. <i>She surrendered only twenty games in her five qualifying matches.</i>
unanimity	Agreement by all people involved; consensus. <i>There is almost complete unanimity on this issue.</i>
vote	Express one's preference for a candidate or for a measure or resolution cast a vote. <i>They are ready to put it to a vote.</i>
voting	A choice that is made by counting the number of people in favor of each alternative.
waive	Refrain from insisting on or using (a right or claim). <i>Her tuition fees would be waived.</i>
withhold	Hold back; refuse to hand over or share. <i>Her mouth clenched as if withholding a cry.</i>
yield	Be the cause or source of. <i>The door yielded to repeated blows with a battering ram.</i>