

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.  
*Each pledged to **desist** from acts of sabotage.*
- forbear** Politely or patiently restrain an impulse to do something; refrain.  
*Rebecca could not **forbear** a smile.*
- hold back** To close within bounds limit or hold back from movement.
- keep** Look after be the keeper of have charge of.  
***Keep** count.*
- 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)

<b>abdicate</b>	Give up, such as power, as of monarchs and emperors, or duties and obligations. <i>Ferdinand <b>abdicated</b> the throne in favour of the emperor's brother.</i>
<b>abjure</b>	Solemnly renounce (a belief, cause, or claim). <i>She <b>abjured</b> her beliefs.</i>
<b><u>abstention</u></b>	The trait of abstaining (especially from alcohol). <i>A resolution passed by 126 votes to none with six <b>abstentions</b>.</i>
<b>ballot</b>	Vote by ballot. <i>He won 54 per cent of the <b>ballot</b>.</i>
<b><u>cease</u></b>	Cease is a noun only in the phrase without cease end. <i>They were asked to <b>cease</b> all military activity.</i>
<b>cede</b>	Relinquish possession or control over. <i>In 1874 the islands were <b>ceded</b> to Britain.</i>
<b>choice</b>	One of a number of things from which only one can be chosen. <i>I had to do it I had no <b>choice</b>.</i>
<b>dereliction</b>	A tendency to be negligent and uncaring. <i>A gross <b>dereliction</b> of duty by the Secretary of State.</i>
<b><u>elect</u></b>	Select by a vote for an office or membership. <i>An <b>elect</b> circle of artists.</i>
<b>election</b>	The act of selecting someone or something; the exercise of deliberate choice. <i>Her <b>election</b> of medicine as a profession.</i>
<b>elector</b>	In the US a member of the electoral college. <i>Close to 60 per cent of the 60 000 registered <b>electors</b> voted.</i>
<b>foreswear</b>	Turn away from; give up. <i>I am <b>foreswearing</b> women forever.</i>
<b><u>forgo</u></b>	Go without (something desirable). <i>We <b>forgo</b> any comparison between the two men.</i>
<b>forswear</b>	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>
<b><u>give</u></b>	Give or supply. <i>For your entertainment this evening I <b>give</b> you Mister Albert DeNero.</i>

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