

Need another word that means the same as “drift”? Find 73 synonyms and 30 related words for “drift” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Drift” are: freewheel, be adrift, blow, float, cast, ramble, range, roam, roll, rove, stray, swan, tramp, vagabond, wander, err, be carried, be carried along, be carried away, be borne, be wafted, digress, depart, diverge, veer, swerve, deviate, get sidetracked, pile up, bank up, heap up, accumulate, gather, form drifts, form heaps, amass, purport, impetus, impulsion, movement, trend, gallery, heading, shift, flow, transfer, transferral, relocation, gravitation, deviation, digression, veering, straying, gist, essence, core, meaning, sense, thesis, substance, significance, signification, pile, heap, bank, mound, mass, accumulation, dune, ridge, crossing place, crossing, causeway**

## **Drift as a Noun**

### **Definitions of "Drift" as a noun**

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

- *A horizontal (or nearly horizontal) passageway in a mine.*
- *A horizontal or inclined passage following a mineral vein or coal seam.*
- *A ford.*
- *A force that moves something along.*
- *The pervading meaning or tenor.*

- *A controlled skid, used in taking bends at high speeds.*
- *A general tendency to change (as of opinion).*
- *A process of linguistic change over a period of time.*
- *The general intention or meaning of an argument or someone's remarks.*
- *Glacial and fluvioglacial deposits left by retreating ice sheets.*
- *An act of herding cattle within a forest to a particular place on an appointed day in order to determine ownership or to levy fines.*
- *A steady movement or development from one thing towards another that is perceived as unwelcome.*
- *A large mass of snow, leaves, or other material piled up or carried along by the wind.*
- *An act of driving cattle or sheep.*
- *A large mass of material that is heaped up by the wind or by water currents.*
- *A large spread of flowering plants growing together.*
- *The deviation of a vessel, aircraft, or projectile from its intended or expected course as the result of currents or winds.*
- *A continuous slow movement from one place to another.*
- *A state of inaction or indecision.*
- *The gradual departure from an intended course due to external influences (as a ship or plane).*



## Synonyms of "Drift" as a noun (37 Words)

<b><u>accumulation</u></b>	Profits that are not paid out as dividends but are added to the capital base of the corporation. <i>The <b>accumulation</b> of wealth.</i>
<b>bank</b>	An elevation in the seabed or a riverbed a mudbank or sandbank. <i>He cashed a check at the <b>bank</b>.</i>
<b>causeway</b>	A raised road or track across low or wet ground. <i>An island reached at low tide by a <b>causeway</b>.</i>
<b>core</b>	An organization founded by James Leonard Farmer in 1942 to work for racial equality. <i>The plan has the interests of children at its <b>core</b>.</i>

<b>crossing</b>	The action of crossing something. <i>The <b>crossing</b> of the Pennines.</i>
<b>crossing place</b>	A voyage across a body of water (usually across the Atlantic Ocean).
<b>deviation</b>	The error of a compass due to local magnetic disturbances. <i><b>Deviation</b> from a norm.</i>
<b>digression</b>	A message that departs from the main subject. <i>A <b>digression</b> into irrelevant details.</i>
<b>dune</b>	A ridge of sand created by the wind; found in deserts or near lakes and oceans. <i>A sand <b>dune</b>.</i>
<b>essence</b>	An extract or concentrate obtained from a plant or other matter and used for flavouring or scent. <i>Vanilla <b>essence</b>.</i>
<b>flow</b>	The act of flowing or streaming continuous progression. <i>A constant <b>flow</b> of people.</i>
<b>gallery</b>	A group of spectators, especially those at a golf tournament. <i>Shooting <b>gallery</b>.</i>
<b>gist</b>	The real point of an action. <i>It was hard to get the <b>gist</b> of Pedro s talk.</i>
<b>gravitation</b>	The force responsible for gravitation gravity. <i>Irrigation by <b>gravitation</b> rather than by pumps.</i>
<b>heading</b>	A direction or bearing. <i>Chapter <b>headings</b>.</i>
<b>heap</b>	A collection of objects laid on top of each other. <i>Her clothes lay in a <b>heap</b> on the floor.</i>
<b>impetus</b>	A force that moves something along. <i>The ending of the Cold War gave new <b>impetus</b> to idealism.</i>
<b>impulsion</b>	A strong urge to do something. <i>The <b>impulsion</b> of the singers to govern the pace.</i>
<b>mass</b>	An ill-structured collection of similar things (objects or people). <i>We get <b>masses</b> of homework.</i>
<b>meaning</b>	The idea that is intended. <i>What is the <b>meaning</b> of this sentence.</i>
<b>mound</b>	A small hill. <i>They have a southpaw on the <b>mound</b>.</i>
<b>movement</b>	A campaign undertaken by a political social or artistic movement. <i>The <b>movement</b> to end slavery.</i>

<b>pile</b>	A large amount of something. <i>For uniform color and texture tailors cut velvet with the <b>pile</b> running the same direction.</i>
<b>purport</b>	The purpose or intention of something. <i>I do not understand the <b>purport</b> of your remarks.</i>
<b>relocation</b>	The act of changing your residence or place of business. <i>The planned <b>relocation</b> of national headquarters to Warwickshire.</i>
<b>ridge</b>	An elongated region of high barometric pressure. <i>The roof was unusual due to the relative heights of the eaves and the <b>ridge</b>.</i>
<b>sense</b>	Relating to or denoting a coding sequence of nucleotides complementary to an antisense sequence. <i>I can't see the <b>sense</b> in leaving all the work to you.</i>
<b>shift</b>	The group of people who work during a particular shift. <i>A <b>shift</b> in public opinion.</i>
<b>significance</b>	The extent to which a result deviates from that expected to arise simply from random variation or errors in sampling. <i>Do not underestimate the <b>significance</b> of nuclear power.</i>
<b>signification</b>	The representation or conveying of meaning. <i>Many words acquired a <b>signification</b> coloured by legal construction.</i>
<b>straying</b>	An animal that has strayed (especially a domestic animal).
<b>substance</b>	The subject matter of a text, speech, or work of art, especially as contrasted with the form or style in which it is presented. <i>A steel tube coated with a waxy <b>substance</b>.</i>
<b>thesis</b>	A statement or theory that is put forward as a premise to be maintained or proved. <i>A doctoral <b>thesis</b>.</i>
<b>transfer</b>	The act of transferring something from one form to another. <i>Data <b>transfer</b> between different manufacturers drives.</i>
<b>transferral</b>	The action of transferring someone or something. <i>The <b>transferral</b> of ownership in the form of a takeover.</i>
<b>trend</b>	General line of orientation. <i>For more than 20 days in a row most of the top Twitter <b>trends</b> were Olympics related.</i>
<b>veering</b>	The act of turning aside suddenly.



## Usage Examples of "Drift" as a noun

- *After so much drift, any expression of enthusiasm is welcome.*
- *The drift towards a more repressive style of policing.*
- *Four sheep were dug out of the drift.*
- *The pilot had not noticed any appreciable drift.*
- *Caught the general drift of the conversation.*
- *He didn't understand much Greek, but he got her drift.*
- *They dug a drift parallel with the vein.*
- *The drift led to another smaller ore chamber.*
- *A drift of daffodils.*
- *There was a drift to the towns.*
- *Maybe I'm too close to the forest to see the trees, if you catch my drift.*



## Drift as a Verb

### Definitions of "Drift" as a verb

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

- *Move in an unhurried fashion.*
- *Cause to be carried by a current.*
- *(especially of snow or leaves) be blown into heaps by the wind.*
- *Walk slowly, aimlessly, or casually.*
- *Drive slowly and far afield for grazing.*
- *Be in motion due to some air or water current.*
- *Move about aimlessly or without any destination, often in search of food or*

*employment.*

- *Vary or move from a fixed point or course.*
- *Be subject to fluctuation.*
- *(of a person or their attention) digress or stray to another subject.*
- *Wander from a direct course or at random.*
- *Be piled up in banks or heaps by the force of wind or a current.*
- *Be carried slowly by a current of air or water.*
- *Live unhurriedly, irresponsibly, or freely.*
- *Move passively, aimlessly, or involuntarily into a certain situation or condition.*





## Synonyms of "Drift" as a verb (36 Words)

### accumulate

Gather; build up.

*Investigators have yet to **accumulate** enough evidence.*

<b>amass</b>	Gather together in a crowd or group. <i>He <b>amassed</b> a fortune estimated at close to a million pounds.</i>
<b>bank up</b>	Do business with a bank or keep an account at a bank.
<b>be adrift</b>	Work in a specific place, with a specific subject, or in a specific function.
<b>be borne</b>	Work in a specific place, with a specific subject, or in a specific function.
<b>be carried</b>	Spend or use time.
<b>be carried along</b>	Be identical or equivalent to.
<b>be carried away</b>	Be identical to; be someone or something.
<b>be wafted</b>	Form or compose.
<b>blow</b>	Of a whale eject air and vapour through the blowhole. <i>The blast had <b>blown</b> the windows out of the van.</i>
<b>cast</b>	Form by pouring e.g. wax or hot metal into a cast or mold. <i>The moon <b>cast</b> a pale light over the cottages.</i>
<b>depart</b>	Wander from a direct or straight course. <i>The train <b>departs</b> at noon.</i>
<b>deviate</b>	Cause to turn away from a previous or expected course. <i>You must not <b>deviate</b> from the agreed route.</i>
<b>digress</b>	Lose clarity or turn aside especially from the main subject of attention or course of argument in writing, thinking, or speaking. <i>I have <b>digressed</b> a little from my original plan.</i>
<b>diverge</b>	Have no limits as a mathematical series. <i>Suddenly he <b>diverged</b> from his text.</i>
<b>err</b>	Be mistaken or incorrect; make a mistake. <i>He has <b>erred</b> and strayed as many of us have.</i>
<b>float</b>	Be afloat either on or below a liquid surface and not sink to the bottom. <i><b>Float</b> data.</i>
<b>form drifts</b>	Create (as an entity).
<b>form heaps</b>	Create (as an entity).
<b>freewheel</b>	Coast in a vehicle using the freewheel. <i>She was convinced that she saved a lot of petrol money by turning the engine off and <b>freewheeling</b> down the hill.</i>
<b>gather</b>	Collect or gather. <i>The car <b>gathers</b> speed.</i>
<b>get sidetracked</b>	Suffer from the receipt of.
<b>heap up</b>	Fill to overflow.
<b>pile up</b>	Place or lay as if in a pile.

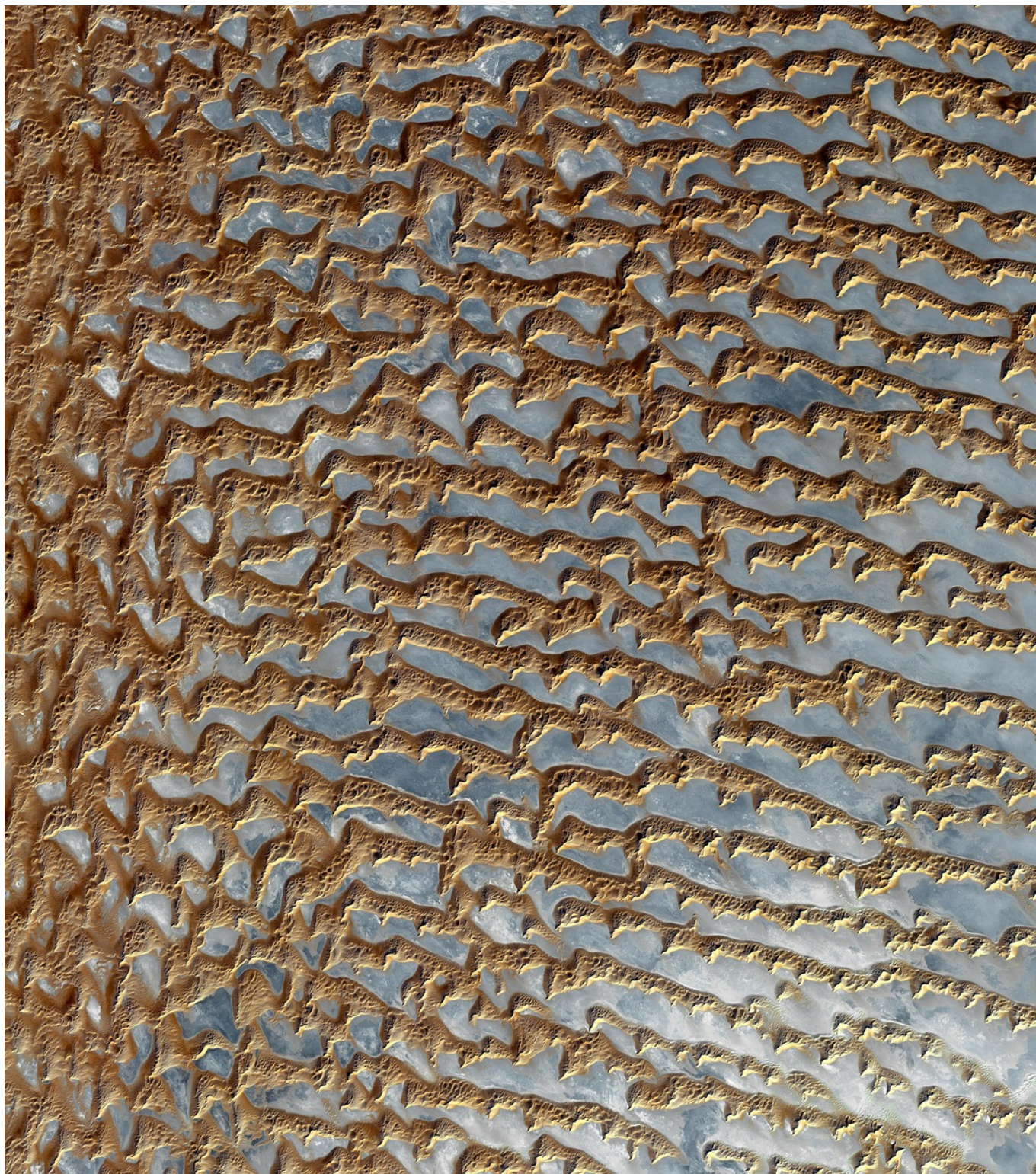
<b>ramble</b>	Continue talking or writing in a desultory manner. <i>This novel <b>rambles</b> on and jogs.</i>
<b>range</b>	Place or arrange in a row or rows or in a specified manner. <i>Tribes who <b>ranged</b> the windswept lands of the steppe.</i>
<b>roam</b>	Move about aimlessly or without any destination, often in search of food or employment. <i>He let his eyes <b>roam</b> her face.</i>
<b>roll</b>	Flatten or spread with a roller. <i>Pat <b>rolled</b> the <b>trolley</b> to and fro.</i>
<b>rove</b>	(of a person's eyes) look in changing directions in order to see something thoroughly. <i>The policeman's eyes <b>roved</b> around the pub.</i>
<a href="#"><u>stray</u></a>	Lose clarity or turn aside especially from the main subject of attention or course of argument in writing, thinking, or speaking. <i>Dog owners are urged not to allow their dogs to <b>stray</b>.</i>
<b>swan</b>	Move about or go somewhere in a casual, irresponsible, or ostentatious way. <i>Airplanes were <b>swanning</b> over the mountains.</i>
<b>swerve</b>	Change or cause to change direction abruptly. <i>A lorry <b>swerved</b> across her path.</i>
<b>vagabond</b>	Wander about as or like a vagabond. <i>He went <b>vagabonding</b> about the world.</i>
<a href="#"><u>veer</u></a>	(of the wind) change direction clockwise around the points of the compass. <i>The wind <b>veered</b>.</i>
<a href="#"><u>wander</u></a>	To move or cause to move in a sinuous, spiral, or circular course. <i>Her mind <b>wanders</b>.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Drift" as a verb

- *Fallen leaves were starting to drift in the gutters.*
- *Stock prices are drifting higher.*
- *Excited voices drifted down the hall.*
- *People began to drift away.*
- *The cabin cruiser started to drift downstream.*
- *Drift the boats downstream.*
- *The laborers drift from one town to the next.*
- *I've just drifted into things because they were offered to me and they seemed like fun.*
- *The unknown young man drifted among the invited guests.*
- *I noticed my audience's attention drifting.*
- *Snow drifting several feet high.*

- *The stock market drifted upward.*
- *My son drifted around for years in California before going to law school.*
- *He was drifting in and out of consciousness.*
- *The shipwrecked boat drifted away from the shore.*
- *Drift the cattle herds westwards.*
- *Sand drifting like snow.*
- *The sailboat was adrift on the open sea.*
- *Don't drift from the set course.*
- *The boat drifted on the lake.*



## Associations of "Drift" (30 Words)

<b>adrift</b>	Floating freely; not anchored. <i>The film industry was <b>adrift</b> in a sea of debt.</i>
<b>aimlessly</b>	Without purpose or direction. <i>We wandered <b>aimlessly</b> round Venice.</i>
<b>continental</b>	A member of the Continental Army. <i><b>Continental</b> waters.</i>
<b><u>digress</u></b>	Leave the main subject temporarily in speech or writing. <i>She always <b>digresses</b> when telling a story.</i>
<b><u>float</u></b>	Allow a currency to float. <i>The dancer <b>floated</b> across the stage.</i>
<b>floating</b>	Inclined to move or be moved about. <i>A <b>floating</b> platform.</i>
<b>flotsam</b>	People or things that have been rejected or discarded as worthless. <i>The room was cleared of boxes and other <b>flotsam</b>.</i>
<b>freewheel</b>	Coast in a vehicle using the freewheel. <i>I m not the sort of person who would <b>freewheel</b> his way to the end of a contract.</i>
<b>gad</b>	A sharp prod fixed to a rider's heel and used to urge a horse onward. <i>He had heard that I was <b>gadding</b> about with an airline stewardess.</i>
<b>gallivant</b>	Wander aimlessly in search of pleasure. <i>She quit her job to go <b>gallivanting</b> around the globe.</i>
<b>migration</b>	Movement from one part of something to another. <i>This butterfly s annual <b>migration</b> across North America.</i>
<b>nomadic</b>	Living the life of a nomad; wandering. <i><b>Nomadic</b> herdsmen.</i>
<b>peripatetic</b>	(of a teacher) working in more than one school or college. <i><b>Peripatetic</b> country preachers.</i>
<b>plod</b>	A slow, heavy walk. <i>Mules <b>plodded</b> in a circle around a grindstone.</i>
<b>ramble</b>	A walk taken for pleasure in the countryside. <i>Roses climbed <b>rambled</b> hung over walls.</i>
<b><u>rambling</u></b>	(of writing or speech) lengthy and confused or inconsequential. <i>A <b>rambling</b> club.</i>
<b>roam</b>	An aimless walk. <i>He let his mind <b>roam</b> as he walked.</i>

- rove** (of a person's eyes) look in changing directions in order to see something thoroughly.  
*The policeman s eyes **roved** around the pub.*
- roving** Migratory.  
*He trained as a **roving** reporter.*
- southward** Towards the south.  
*The village stretches **southwards** across the plain.*
- stray** An animal that has strayed especially a domestic animal.  
*A few **stray** crumbs.*
- trudge** A difficult or laborious walk.  
*He began the long **trudge** back to Stokenchurch Street.*
- undirected** Lacking direction; without a particular aim, purpose, or target.  
*She was full of ineffectual **undirected** anger.*
- vagabond** Wander about as or like a vagabond.  
*He went **vagabonding** about the world.*
- vagrant** Relating to or living the life of a vagrant.  
*The **vagrant** heart of my mother.*
- wander** An act or instance of wandering.  
*She d go on **wanders** like that in her nightgown.*
- wanderer** A person who travels aimlessly.  
*He is a longtime seaman a rootless **wanderer**.*
- wandering** Having no fixed course.  
*His life followed a **wandering** course.*

