

Need another word that means the same as “earlier”? Find 6 synonyms and 30 related words for “earlier” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Earlier” are: sooner, before, in the beginning, in the first place, originally, earliest

Earlier as an Adjective

Definitions of "Earlier" as an adjective

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), “earlier” as an adjective can have the following definitions:

- *Expected in the near future.*
- *Belonging to the distant past.*
- *(comparative and superlative of `early') more early than; most early.*
- *Of an early stage in the development of a language or literature.*
- *Very young.*
- *Being or occurring at an early stage of development.*
- *At or near the beginning of a period of time or course of events or before the usual or expected time.*



Synonyms of "Earlier" as an adjective (1 Word)

earliest (comparative and superlative of `early`) more early than; most early.
*Verdi's **earliest** and most raucous opera.*



Usage Examples of "Earlier" as an adjective

- *A fashion popular in earlier times.*
- *His earlier work reflects the influence of his teacher.*



Earlier as an Adverb

Definitions of "Earlier" as an adverb

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), "earlier" as an adverb can have the following definitions:

- *In good time.*
- *Before now.*
- *Before the usual time or the time expected.*
- *During an early stage.*
- *Earlier in time; previously.*
- *Comparatives of 'soon' or 'early'.*



Synonyms of "Earlier" as an adverb (5 Words)

- before** During the period of time preceding a particular event or time.
*He called me the day **before** but your call had come even earlier.*
- in the beginning** To or toward the inside of.
- in the first place** To or toward the inside of.
- originally** In an original manner.
*The suggestions so **originally** and persuasively outlined.*
- sooner** In the near future.
*I d **sooner** die than give up.*



Usage Examples of "Earlier" as an adverb

- *I mentioned that problem earlier.*
- *He called me the day before but your call had come even earlier.*
- *Her parents had died four years earlier.*
- *Came earlier than I expected.*



Associations of "Earlier" (30 Words)

ahead

Ahead of time in anticipation.

*The horse was three lengths **ahead** going into the home stretch.*

ancient

A person who lived in ancient times.

***Ancient** Greece.*

antecedence Preceding in time.

antiquate Make obsolete or old-fashioned.

beforehand

Being ahead of time or need.

*Was **beforehand** with her report.*

beginning

The background or origins of a person or organization.

*He left at the **beginning** of February.*

betimes

In good time.

*He awoke **betimes** that morning.*

colonist

A settler in or inhabitant of a colony.

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|--------------------|---|
| embryonic | Of an organism prior to birth or hatching. <i>The plan is still in its embryonic stages.</i> |
| emerging | Becoming apparent or prominent. <i>Established and emerging artists.</i> |
| first | The first or highest in an ordering or series. <i>The first verse.</i> |
| germinal | In the earliest stage of development. <i>De Beauvoir's germinal book <i>The Second Sex</i>.</i> |
| history | A past characterized by a particular thing. <i>History takes the long view.</i> |
| inchoate | (of an offence, such as incitement or conspiracy) anticipating or preparatory to a further criminal act. <i>A still inchoate democracy.</i> |
| inchoative | An inchoative verb. <i>Inchoative stages.</i> |
| initial | Mark with one's initials. <i>The witness was identified simply by an initial letter.</i> |
| medieval | As if belonging to the Middle Ages; old-fashioned and unenlightened. <i>A medieval attitude toward dating.</i> |
| neolithic | Latest part of the Stone Age beginning about 10,000 BC in the Middle East (but later elsewhere). |
| paleolithic | Of or relating to the second period of the Stone Age (following the eolithic). <i>Paleolithic artifacts.</i> |
| pioneer | Open up a road or terrain as a pioneer. <i>The technique was pioneered by a Swiss doctor in the 1930s.</i> |
| predate | Be earlier in time; go back further. <i>These mammals predate certain eggs.</i> |
| premature | Uncommonly early or before the expected time. <i>The sun can cause premature ageing.</i> |
| prematurely | Before the end of the normal period of gestation. <i>I spoke prematurely.</i> |
| previous | Previous convictions a criminal record. <i>The previous occupant of the White House.</i> |
| primal | Serving as an essential component. <i>Rivers were the primal highways of life.</i> |
| primeval | Having existed from the beginning; in an earliest or original stage or state. <i>Mile after mile of primeval forest.</i> |

primitive

A painting by a primitive artist or an object in a primitive style.
*Santa Fe style antiques and Mexican **primitives**.*

primordial

(of a cell, part, or tissue) in the earliest stage of development.
Primordial forms of life.

settler

A negotiator who settles disputes.
*The early European **settlers** in America were often fleeing from religious persecution.*

untimely

At a time that is unsuitable or premature.
*Dave s **untimely** return.*

