

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.

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

