

Need another word that means the same as “retain”? Find 28 synonyms and 30 related words for “retain” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Retain” are: hold, hold back, keep back, continue, keep, keep on, keep possession of, keep hold of, hold on to, hold fast to, hang on to, cling to, maintain, preserve, reserve, conserve, perpetuate, cherish, remember, memorize, keep in one's mind, keep in one's memory, employ, commission, contract, pay, keep on the payroll, have in employment**

## Retain as a Verb

### Definitions of "Retain" as a verb

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

- *Allow to remain in a place or position or maintain a property or feature.*
- *Keep in one's mind.*
- *Hold back within.*
- *Continue to have (something); keep possession of.*
- *Keep (something) in place; hold fixed.*
- *Absorb and continue to hold (a substance).*
- *Secure the services of (a barrister) with a preliminary payment.*
- *Not abolish or alter; maintain.*
- *Secure and keep for possible future use or application.*
- *Keep (someone) engaged in one's service.*
- *Keep in one's memory.*



## Synonyms of "Retain" as a verb (28 Words)

**cherish**

Keep (a hope or ambition) in one's mind.  
*He needed a woman he could **cherish**.*

**cling to**

Hold on tightly or tenaciously.

**commission**

Put into commission equip for service of ships.  
*The portrait was **commissioned** by his widow in 1792.*

**conserve**

Protect (something, especially something of environmental or cultural importance) from harm or destruction.  
*Industry should **conserve** more water.*

**continue**

Continue a certain state condition or activity.  
*The case was **continued** without a finding until August 2.*

**contract**

Enter into a contractual arrangement.  
*The paper had **contracted** to publish extracts from the diaries.*

<b><u>employ</u></b>	Put into service make work or employ for a particular purpose or for its inherent or natural purpose. <i>The firm <b>employs</b> 150 people.</i>
<b>hang on to</b>	Prevent from reaching a verdict, of a jury.
<b>have in employment</b>	Have ownership or possession of.
<b>hold</b>	Hold the attention of. <i>A crazy idea took <b>hold</b> of him.</i>
<b>hold back</b>	To close within bounds limit or hold back from movement.
<b>hold fast to</b>	Arrange for and reserve (something for someone else) in advance.
<b>hold on to</b>	Arrange for and reserve (something for someone else) in advance.
<b><u>keep</u></b>	Keep in a certain state position or activity. <i>The soldiers removed <b>keeping</b> their course towards Jericho.</i>
<b>keep back</b>	Fail to spoil or rot.
<b>keep hold of</b>	Stop (someone or something) from doing something or being in a certain state.
<b>keep in one's memory</b>	Prevent (food) from rotting.
<b>keep in one's mind</b>	Conform one's action or practice to.
<b>keep on</b>	Allow to remain in a place or position or maintain a property or feature.
<b>keep on the payroll</b>	Continue a certain state, condition, or activity.
<b>keep possession of</b>	Stick to correctly or closely.
<b>maintain</b>	Maintain by writing regular records. <i>The need to <b>maintain</b> close links between industry and schools.</i>
<b><u>memorize</u></b>	Commit to memory; learn by heart. <i>Have you <b>memorized</b> your lines for the play yet.</i>
<b>pay</b>	Cancel or discharge a debt. <i>You ll <b>pay</b> for this opinion later.</i>
<b><u>perpetuate</u></b>	Cause to continue or prevail. <i>The confusion was <b>perpetuated</b> through inadvertence.</i>
<b><u>preserve</u></b>	Keep safe from harm or injury. <i>We <b>preserve</b> these archeological findings.</i>
<b>remember</b>	Mention favorably, as in prayer. <i>After the shelling many people lost the ability to <b>remember</b>.</i>
<b><u>reserve</u></b>	Arrange for and reserve something for someone else in advance. <i>A place was <b>reserved</b> for her in the front row.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Retain" as a verb

- *I retain this drug for a long time.*
- *The dam retains the water.*
- *Built in 1830, the house retains many of its original features.*
- *The landlord retained the security deposit.*
- *I retained a few French words and phrases.*
- *She retains a lawyer.*
- *She retained her composure.*
- *Limestone is known to retain water.*
- *Labour retained the seat.*
- *This soil retains water.*
- *Retain a barrister to handle the client's business.*
- *This garment retains its shape even after many washings.*
- *He has been retained as a freelance.*
- *The rights of defendants must be retained.*
- *I cannot retain so much information.*
- *The successful design of a cartridge belt requires that the cartridges in it be properly located and retained in that position.*



## Associations of "Retain" (30 Words)

- accommodate** Be agreeable or acceptable to.  
*This hotel can **accommodate** 250 guests.*
- await** Wait for (an event).  
*Many dangers **await** them.*
- awning** A sheet of canvas or other material stretched on a frame and used to keep the sun or rain off a shop window, doorway, or ship's deck.
- bear** Have rightfully; of rights, titles, and offices.  
*No one likes to **bear** the responsibility for such decisions.*
- belong** Be a member, adherent, inhabitant, etc. (of a group, organization, or place).  
*Such statements do not **belong** in a modern student textbook.*
- bind** Bind by an obligation cause to be indebted.  
*We have many ties that **bind** us historical cultural and economical.*

<b>carry</b>	The act of carrying something. <i>The airwaves <b>carry</b> the sound.</i>
<b>coherence</b>	The state of cohering or sticking together. <i>The group began to lose <b>coherence</b> and the artists took separate directions.</i>
<b>conserve</b>	Fruit preserved by cooking with sugar. <i>Highly <b>conserved</b> regions of the protein.</i>
<b>contain</b>	Be capable of holding or containing. <i>This can <b>contains</b> water.</i>
<b>depository</b>	A facility where things can be deposited for storage or safekeeping. <i>Irish libraries became depositories for material from all over the world.</i>
<b>embrace</b>	The act of clasping another person in the arms (as in greeting or affection). <i>Totalitarianism has meant that no interest falls outside the <b>embrace</b> of the state.</i>
<b>gnash</b>	Grind together, of teeth. <i>No doubt he is <b>gnashing</b> his teeth in rage.</i>
<b>grab</b>	A quick sudden clutch or attempt to seize. <i>He made a <b>grab</b> at the pistol.</i>
<b>grip</b>	To grip or seize as in a wrestling match. <i>It was an old briefcase but it still had a good <b>grip</b>.</i>
<b>have</b>	Have left. <i>I don't <b>have</b> that much money on me.</i>
<b>hold</b>	A stronghold. <i><b>Hold</b> your breath.</i>
<b>impound</b>	Place or shut up in a pound. <i>It will <b>impound</b> a reservoir 130 miles long.</i>
<b>include</b>	Allow (someone) to share in an activity or privilege. <i>We must <b>include</b> this chemical element in the group.</i>
<b>keep</b>	Cause to continue in a certain state position or activity e.g keep clean. <i>Where do you <b>keep</b> your gardening tools.</i>
<b>maintain</b>	Maintain by writing regular records. <i><b>Maintain</b> a record.</i>
<b>maintenance</b>	Means of maintenance of a family or group. <i>Car <b>maintenance</b>.</i>
<b>own</b>	Have something as one's own possess. <i>A state <b>owned</b> company.</i>

- postponement** Act of putting off to a future time.  
*The **postponement** of the elections.*
- preserve** A foodstuff made with fruit preserved in sugar such as jam or marmalade.  
*A jar of cherry **preserve**.*
- retention** The action of absorbing and continuing to hold a substance.  
*The **retention** of direct control by central government.*
- stabilize** Support or hold steady and make steadfast, with or as if with a brace.  
*The craft was **stabilized** by throwing out the remaining ballast.*
- storehouse** A large supply of something.  
*An enormous **storehouse** of facts.*
- tangency** A junction where things (as two electrical conductors) touch or are in physical contact.
- uphold** Stand up for; stick up for; of causes, principles, or ideals.  
*They **uphold** a tradition of not causing distress to living creatures.*

