

Need another word that means the same as “spy”? Find 43 synonyms and 30 related words for “spy” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “spy” are: secret agent, enemy agent, secret service agent, intelligence agent, double agent, counterspy, fifth columnist, mole, plant, scout, descry, espy, spot, sleuth, snoop, stag, sight, eavesdropping, be a spy, be engaged in spying, gather intelligence, work for the secret service, observe furtively, keep under surveillance, watch, keep a watch on, keep an eye on, keep under observation, follow, shadow, trail, notice, observe, see, catch sight of, glimpse, catch a glimpse of, get a glimpse of, make out, discern, pick out, detect, have sight of

Spy as a Noun

Definitions of "Spy" as a noun

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

- *A secret watcher; someone who secretly watches other people.*
- *A person employed by a government or other organization to secretly obtain information on an enemy or competitor.*
- *A person who keeps watch on others secretly.*
- *A secret agent hired by a state to obtain information about its enemies or by a business to obtain industrial secrets from competitors.*

- (military) a secret agent hired by a state to obtain information about its enemies or by a business to obtain industrial secrets from competitors.



Synonyms of "Spy" as a noun (10 Words)

counterspy	A spy engaged in counter-espionage.
double agent	Someone who closely resembles a famous person (especially an actor).
enemy agent	A personal enemy.
fifth columnist	Position five in a countable series of things.
intelligence agent	Information about recent and important events.
mole	The molecular weight of a substance expressed in grams the basic unit of amount of substance adopted under the Systeme International d Unites. <i>The company is hunting for the mole who revealed details of planned job cuts.</i>

- plant** A small plant as distinct from a shrub or tree.
*He claimed that the evidence against him was a **plant**.*
- scout** A honeybee that searches for a new site for a swarm to settle or for a new food source.
*Brock slid the ball in from 14 yards to impress watching **scouts**.*
- secret agent** Something that baffles understanding and cannot be explained.
- secret service agent** Information known only to a special group.



Usage Examples of "Spy" as a noun

- A *spy camera*.

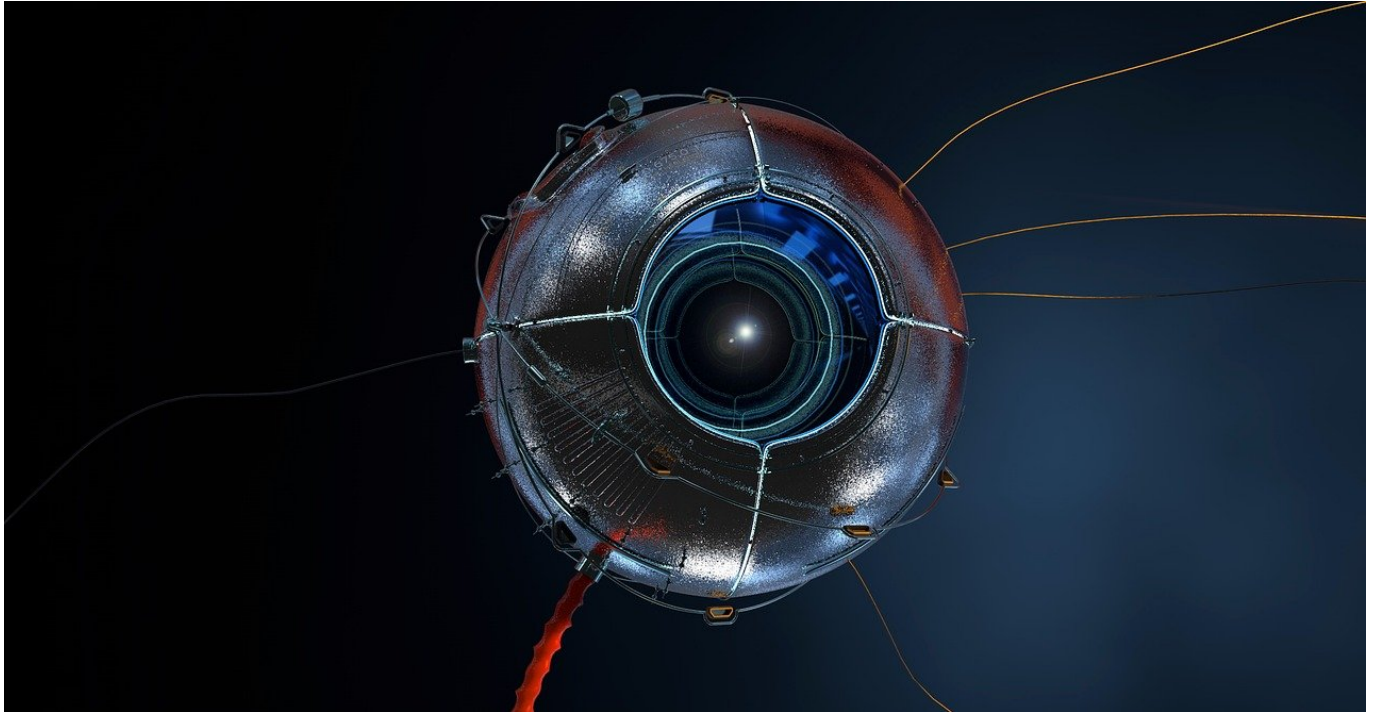


Spy as a Verb

Definitions of "Spy" as a verb

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

- *Collect information about something to use in deciding how to act.*
- *Secretly collect sensitive or classified information; engage in espionage.*
- *Observe (someone) furtively.*
- *Catch sight of.*
- *Watch, observe, or inquire secretly.*
- *Discern or make out, especially by careful observation.*
- *Catch sight of; to perceive with the eyes.*
- *Work for a government or other organization by secretly obtaining information about enemies or competitors.*



Synonyms of "Spy" as a verb (33 Words)

be a spy

Work in a specific place, with a specific subject, or in a specific function.

be engaged in spying

Be priced at.

catch a glimpse of

Attract; cause to be enamored.

catch sight of

Perceive by hearing.

descry

Catch sight of.

She descried two figures.

detect

Discern (something intangible or barely perceptible).

*The public can help the police to **detect** crime.*

discern

Detect with the senses.

*Pupils quickly **discern** what is acceptable to the teacher.*

eavesdropping

Listen without the speaker's knowledge.

espy

Catch sight of.

She espied her daughter rounding the corner.

follow

Follow discover or ascertain the course of development of something.

*She **followed** his gaze peering into the gloom.*

gather intelligence

Collect or gather.

get a glimpse of

[glimpse](#)

have sight of

keep a watch on

keep an eye on

keep under observation

keep under surveillance

make out

notice

[observe](#)

observe furtively

pick out

[see](#)

[shadow](#)

sight

[sleuth](#)

snoop

[spot](#)

stag

[trail](#)

Perceive by hearing.

Catch a glimpse of or see briefly.

*He **glimpsed** a figure standing in the shade.*

Achieve a point or goal.

Supply with necessities and support.

Supply with necessities and support.

Look after; be the keeper of; have charge of.

Conform one's action or practice to.

To compose or represent.

Notice or perceive.

*I **noticed** that she was looking tired.*

Observe with care or pay close attention to.

*Please **observe** the reaction of these two chemicals.*

Stick to correctly or closely.

Remove in small bits.

See and understand have a good eye.

*Did you know that she is **seeing** an older man.*

Envelop in shadow cast a shadow over.

*The market is **shadowed** by St Margaret s church.*

Take a detailed visual measurement of something with or as with a sight.

*He had to **sight** along the planks in the proper order to get the line right.*

Discover by careful investigation.

*There s nothing you can do but **sleuth** around until you find the answer.*

Watch, observe, or inquire secretly.

*Your sister might find the ring if she goes **snooping** about.*

Become spotted.

*The men were **spotted** by police.*

Watch, observe, or inquire secretly.

*I **staged** them off and burned the ends then tucked them away.*

(typically of a plant) grow or hang over the edge of something or along the ground.

*The bride s veiled **trailed** along the ground.*

watch

See or watch.

Watch out for broken glass.

work for the secret service Behave in a certain way when handled.



Usage Examples of "Spy" as a verb

- *Spy for the Russians.*
- *He agreed to spy for the West.*
- *The couple were spied on by reporters.*
- *He would go and spy out the land.*
- *He could spy a figure in the distance.*



Associations of "Spy" (30 Words)

- apostate** Not faithful to religion or party or cause.
*After fifty years as an **apostate** he returned to the faith.*
- betray** Treacherously reveal (information).
*The spy **betrayed** his country.*
- betrayal** An act of deliberate betrayal.
*These developments represented a **betrayal** of democracy.*
- betrayer** One who reveals confidential information in return for money.
- clandestine** Kept secret or done secretly, especially because illicit.
*She deserved better than these **clandestine** meetings.*
- concealment** The condition of being concealed or hidden.
*He darted forwards from the **concealment** of the bushes.*
- covert** Being under the protection of her husband.
*A woman **covert**.*
- defector** A person who abandons their duty (as on a military post).
*Staff interviewed escapees and **defectors** to the West.*
- disguised** Having its true character concealed with the intent of misleading.
*The **disguised** form of aggression available to the powerless against the powerful.*

<u>espionage</u>	The systematic use of spies to get military or political secrets. <i>The camouflage and secrecy of espionage.</i>
<u>furtive</u>	Suggestive of guilty nervousness. <i>A furtive manner.</i>
<u>hidden</u>	Designed to elude detection. <i>A hidden room or place of concealment such as a priest hole.</i>
<u>infiltrate</u>	Pass through an enemy line; in a military conflict. <i>Computing has infiltrated most professions now.</i>
infiltration	A process in which individuals (or small groups) penetrate an area (especially the military penetration of enemy positions without detection). <i>The infiltration of seawater through the lava.</i>
investigate	Investigate scientifically. <i>The district attorney's office investigated reports of possible irregularities.</i>
operative	Being in force or having or exerting force. <i>Wounds needing operative treatment.</i>
percolate	(of coffee) be prepared in a percolator. <i>Percolate coffee.</i>
<u>rebel</u>	A person who takes part in an armed rebellion against the constituted authority especially in the hope of improving conditions. <i>As I came over the hill my legs rebelled I could walk no further.</i>
<u>renegade</u>	Become a renegade. <i>He was a renegade and social malcontent.</i>
secret	Of information given in confidence or in secret. <i>The secret of a happy marriage is compromise.</i>
<u>sneak</u>	Someone who prowls or sneaks about usually with unlawful intentions. <i>A sneak thief.</i>
snitch	Someone acting as an informer or decoy for the police. <i>They thought he was a plant or a snitch.</i>
<u>stealthy</u>	Behaving or done in a cautious and surreptitious manner, so as not to be seen or heard. <i>Stealthy footsteps.</i>
surreptitious	Kept secret, especially because it would not be approved of. <i>Surreptitious mobilization of troops.</i>
<u>traitor</u>	A person who betrays someone or something, such as a friend, cause, or principle. <i>He was a traitor to his own class.</i>

- turncoat** A disloyal person who betrays or deserts his cause or religion or political party or friend etc.
*They denounced him as a **turncoat**.*
- ulterior** Lying beyond what is openly revealed or avowed (especially being kept in the background or deliberately concealed)- Bertrand Russell.
*Without **ulterior** argument.*
- undercover** Involving secret work within a community or organization, especially for the purposes of police investigation or espionage.
*An **undercover** investigation.*
- underground** An underground railway especially the one in London.
*Czech **underground** literature.*
- watchdog** A guardian or defender against theft or illegal practices or waste.
*How can we **watchdog** our investments.*

