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plague

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plague (plāg)

n.

1.
 - a. A highly infectious, usually fatal, epidemic disease; a pestilence.
 - b. A virulent, infectious disease that is caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis* (syn. *Pasteurella pestis*) and is transmitted primarily by the bite of fleas from an infected rodent, especially a rat. In humans it occurs in bubonic form, marked by lymph node enlargement, and in pneumonic form, marked by infection of the lungs, and can progress to septicemia.
2.
 - a. A widespread affliction or calamity seen as divine retribution.
 - b. An influx or large number of destructive or unwanted things, especially animals: *"The vines flourished, the only problem being a plague of jackrabbits" (Paul Lukacs).*
 - c. Something that causes persistent hardship, trouble, or annoyance: *"The plague of every funnyman's success is that deep down, almost everyone thinks they know forty guys funnier" (Ross Vachon).*

tr.v. **plagued**, **plagu-ing**, **plagues**

1. To pester or annoy persistently or incessantly. See Synonyms at [harass](#).
2.
 - a. To cause suffering or hardship for: *"Runaway inflation further plagued the wage- or salary-earner" (Edwin O. Reischauer).*
 - b. To be a widespread or continuous problem or defect in: *Confusing jargon plagues the entire subject.*

[Middle English *p1age*, *blow*, *calamity*, *plague*, from Late Latin *p1āga*, from Latin, *blow*, *wound*; see [plāk-](#) in [Indo-European roots](#). *V.*, Middle English *p1aghen*, from Middle Dutch, from *p1aghe*, *plague*, from Late Latin *p1āga*.]

plagu'er *n.*

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plague (pleɪg)

n

1. (Pathology) any widespread and usually highly contagious disease with a high fatality rate
2. (Pathology) an infectious disease of rodents, esp rats, transmitted to man by the bite of the rat flea (*Xenopsylla cheopis*)
3. (Pathology) See [bubonic plague](#)
4. something that afflicts or harasses
5. an annoyance or nuisance
6. (Bible) a pestilence, affliction, or calamity on a large scale, esp when regarded as sent by God
7. used to express annoyance, disgust, etc: *a plague on you.*

vb (tr) , **plagues**, **plaguing** or **plagued**

- 8. to afflict or harass
- 9. to bring down a plague upon
- 10. to annoy

[C14: from Late Latin *plāga* pestilence, from Latin: a blow; related to Greek *plēgē* a stroke, Latin *plangere* to strike]

'plaguer *n*

Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003

plague (pleɪg)

n., *v.* **plagued**, **pla•guing**. *n.*

- 1. an epidemic disease that causes high mortality; pestilence.
- 2. an infectious, epidemic disease caused by a bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*, characterized by fever, chills, and prostration, transmitted to humans from rats by means of the bites of fleas. Compare **bubonic plague**.
- 3. any widespread affliction, calamity, or evil.
- 4. any cause of trouble, annoyance, or vexation.

v.t.

- 5. to trouble, annoy, or torment in any manner.
- 6. to smite with a plague or pestilence.
- 7. to cause an epidemic in or among.
- 8. to afflict with any evil.

[1350–1400; Middle English *plage* < Late Latin *plāga* pestilence, Latin: stripe, wound]

pla'guer, *n.*

syn: See **bother**.

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plague (plāg)

- 1. Any highly infectious, usually fatal epidemic disease.
- 2. An often fatal disease caused by a bacterium transmitted to humans usually by fleas that have bitten infected rats or other rodents. The most common form of plague is bubonic plague, though plague can also exist as a highly contagious form infecting the lungs and as an extremely severe form infecting the blood.

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Plague a group which, by their size, number, or nature, cause devastation or irritation.

Examples: plague of confessors, 1604; of gnats, 1847; of hail, 1382; of infidels, 1596; of locusts, 1774; of brass money, 1855; of rain and water, 1548; of fell (foul) tempest, 1513.

Dictionary of Collective Nouns and Group Terms. Copyright 2008 The Gale Group, Inc. All rights reserved.

plague

Past participle: plagued

Gerund: plaguing

Imperative ▾

Imperative

plague

plague

Collins English Verb Tables © HarperCollins Publishers 2011

Thesaurus

Legend: ≡ Synonyms ↔ Related Words ≠ Antonyms

Noun 1. plague - a serious (sometimes fatal) infection of rodents caused by *Yersinia pestis* and accidentally transmitted to humans by the bite of a flea that has bitten an infected animal

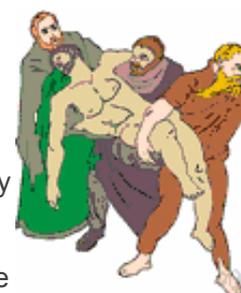
≡ **pest, pestilence, pestis**

↔ **epidemic disease** - any infectious disease that develops and spreads rapidly to many people

↔ **bubonic plague, glandular plague, pestis bubonica** - the most common form of the plague in humans; characterized by chills, prostration, delirium and the formation of buboes in the armpits and groin; does not spread from person to person

↔ **plague pneumonia, pneumonic plague, pulmonic plague** - a rapidly progressive and frequently fatal form of the plague that can spread through the air from person to person; characterized by lung involvement with chill, bloody expectoration and high fever

↔ **septicemic plague** - an especially dangerous and generally fatal form of the plague in which infecting organisms invade the bloodstream; does not spread from person to person



2. plague - any epidemic disease with a high death rate

≡ **pest, pestilence**

↔ **epidemic disease** - any infectious disease that develops and spreads rapidly to many people

3. plague - a swarm of insects that attack plants; "a plague of grasshoppers"

≡ **infestation**

↔ **swarm, cloud** - a group of many things in the air or on the ground; "a swarm of insects obscured the light"; "clouds of blossoms"; "it discharged a cloud of spores"

4. plague - any large scale calamity (especially when thought to be sent by God)

↔ **calamity, catastrophe, tragedy, disaster, cataclysm** - an event resulting in great loss and misfortune; "the whole city was affected by the irremediable calamity"; "the earthquake was a disaster"

5. plague - an annoyance; "those children are a damn plague"

↔ **pain in the ass, pain in the neck, bother, botheration, infliction, annoyance, pain** - something or someone that causes trouble; a source of unhappiness; "washing dishes was a nuisance before we got a

dish washer"; "a bit of a bother"; "he's not a friend, he's an infliction"

↔ **colloquialism** - a colloquial expression; characteristic of spoken or written communication that seeks to imitate informal speech

Verb 1. **plague** - cause to suffer a blight; "Too much rain may blight the garden with mold"

≡ **blight**

↔ **afflict, smite** - cause physical pain or suffering in; "afflict with the plague"



2. **plague** - annoy continually or chronically; "He is known to harry his staff when he is overworked"; "This man harasses his female co-workers"

≡ **beset, chevy, chevy, chivvy, chivy, harass, harry, hassle, molest, provoke**

↔ **needle, goad** - goad or provoke, as by constant criticism; "He needled her with his sarcastic remarks"



↔ **annoy, devil, gravel, irritate, nark, rile, vex, nettle, rag, bother, chafe, get at, get to** - cause annoyance in; disturb, especially by minor irritations; "Mosquitoes buzzing in my ear really bothers me"; "It irritates me that she never closes the door after she leaves"

↔ **bedevil, dun, rag, torment, frustrate, crucify** - treat cruelly; "The children tormented the stuttering teacher"

↔ **haze** - harass by imposing humiliating or painful tasks, as in military institutions

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plague

noun

1. ≡ **disease, infection, epidemic, contagion, pandemic, pestilence, lurgy** (informal) *A cholera plague had killed many prisoners of war.*
2. ≡ **infestation, invasion, epidemic, influx, host, swarm, multitude** *The city is under threat from a plague of rats.*
3. (Informal) ≡ **bane, trial, cancer, evil, curse, torment, blight, calamity, scourge, affliction** *the cynicism which is the plague of our generation*
4. (Informal) ≡ **nuisance, problem, pain** (informal), **bother, pest, hassle** (informal), **annoyance, irritant, aggravation** (informal), **vexation**, thorn in your flesh *Those children can be a real plague at times.*

verb

1. ≡ **torment, trouble, pain, torture, haunt, afflict** (informal) *She was plagued by weakness, fatigue, and dizziness.*
2. ≡ **pester, trouble, bother, disturb, annoy, tease, harry, harass, hassle, fret, badger, persecute, molest, vex, bedevil**, get on your nerves (informal), give someone grief (Brit. & S. African), be on your back (slang), get in your hair (informal) *I'm not going to plague you with a lot of questions.*

Collins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002

plague *noun*

1. A cause of suffering or harm:

≡ **affliction, bane, curse, evil, ill, scourge, woe.**

2. A sudden increase in something, as the occurrence of a disease:

≡ **epidemic, outbreak, rash.**

3. Something that annoys:

≡ **aggravation, annoyance, besetment, bother, irritant, irritation, nuisance, peeve, torment, vexation.**

verb

1. To disturb by repeated attacks:

≡ **annoy, bait, bedevil, beleague, beset, harass, harry, pester, tease, torment, worry.**

2. To trouble persistently from or as if from all sides:

≡ **badger, bedevil, beleague, beset, besiege, harass, harry, hound, importune, pester, solicit.**

3. To bring great harm or suffering to:

≡ **afflict, agonize, anguish, curse, excruciate, rack, scourge, smite, strike, torment, torture.**

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Translations

Select a language: ▼  Spanish / Español ▼

plague [pleɪɡ]

A. *N* (= disease) → **peste** *f* (*fig*) → **plaga** *f*, **fastidio** *m*

a plague of rats → una **plaga** de **ratas**

the plague → la **peste**

to avoid sth/sb like the plague → **huir** de algo/algn como **de la peste**, **evitar** algo **a toda costa**

B. *VT* (*lit*) → **infestar** (*fig*) → **plagar**; [+ *person*] → **atormentar**

the area is plagued with malaria → la **zona** está **infestada** de **malaria**

the thought has been plaguing me → la **idea** me **viene atormentando**

the project has been plagued with problems from the beginning → el **proyecto** se ha **visto plagado** de **problemas** desde el **comienzo**

a country plagued by recession → un **país asolado** por la **recesión**

to plague sb with questions → **acosar** a algn con **preguntas**

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plague (pleɪɡ) *noun*

1. *especially* formerly, an extremely infectious and deadly disease, *especially* one carried by fleas from rats.

peste

2. a large and annoying quantity. *a plague of flies.*

plaga

verb

to annoy or pester continually or frequently. *The child was plaguing her with questions.*

acosar ; atormentar ; fastidiar

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plague

n. peste.

peste bubónica, infección epidémica transmitida por la picadura de pulgas de ratas; enfermedad epidémica que causa alta mortalidad.

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plague *n* peste *f*, **bubonic** — peste bubónica

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