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excessively or inordinately desirous of wealth, profit, etc..The greedy owners of the company paid their employees too little and charged their customers too much.Synonyms: selfish, rapacious, graspingAntonyms: unselfish, generoushaving an excessive desire for food or drink That greedy guy ate four of those brownies before anyone else got any!Synonyms: insatiable, gluttonous, voracious, ravenouslydesirous; eager (often followed by of orfor ).Synonyms: covetous, anxiouslyrequiring or using much of a specified thing (often used in combination).These big trucks are fuel-greedy.Crops that are greedy for water should not be planted in dry regions.Computers.of or relating to an algorithm, search, etc., that operates one step at a time instead of checking all possible paths or solutions all at once and then selecting the one with the best overall outcome.A result may be achieved faster with a greedy search, but that result is not always the correct or best one.of or relating to an operator or quantifier in a search query that will return the largest match result possible.excessively desirous of food or wealth, esp in large amounts; voraciouslyeager (for)Collins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012greedily adverbgreediness nounnongreedy adjectiveovergreedily adverbovergreedness nounovergreedy adjectiveOrigin of greedy1 First recorded before 900; Middle English *greedy*, Old English *grēdig*; cognate with Old Norse *gr̥thugr*, Gothic *grēdags*Origin of greedy1Old English *grēdig*; related to Old Norse *gr̥thugr*, Gothic *grēdags* hungry, Old High German *grāc*Examples are provided to illustrate real-world usage of words in context. Any opinions expressed do not reflect the views of Dictionary.com.In that instance, the public were given the chance to choose the overall winner, opting for the term describing "unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly or greedy" behaviour.The greedy abotia is behind the vendor now, sneaking a second serving of plantains right out of the basket.As far as the incorrigibles were concerned, then, their tutors late arrival, bleak mood, and greedy appetite were all signs of a perfectly ordinary morning This was particularly time-consuming, for no matter how long the children scratched, the greedy squirrel always demanded more.eager,hungrympatientrapaciousselfishWhat doesgreedy mean?Greedy means filled with greedan excessive desire for more, especially for more money and possessions.It can be used to describe people, as in greedy billionaires, or actions that are based on greed, as in It was a greedy scheme to squeeze more money out of people.Greed and greedy are always used negatively to criticize the excessive desire for more.Greed is often thought to influence people to do bad things in their obsession to acquire more money or more stuff. In the expression the love of money is the root of all evil, the love of money is another way of saying being greedy.Less commonly, greedy can mean the same thing as gluttonoushaving an excessive desire for food.Example: These greedy hedge fund managers have more money than they can spend in a lifetime, yet they insist on trying to get away with paying the least amount of taxes possible.greedflationgreedy gutsBrowse#aabbccddeeffghijklmnnnooppqqrrssttuuvvwwxxyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day! 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC wanting more money, power, food, etc. than you really needYou greedy pig! You've already had two helpings!He stared at the diamonds with greedy eyes. greedy for something The shareholders are greedy for profit.Topics Personal qualitiesb2, Feelingsb2, Moneyb2Oxford Collocations DictionaryGreedy is used with these nouns: See full entryWord OriginOld English *grēdig*, of Germanic origin. Idioms (British English, informal) used to refer to somebody who eats too muchMake sure greedy guts doesnt eat all the cake.Topics Personal qualitiesc2 See greedy in the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary Also found in: Thesaurus, Financial, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. (gr̥)Adj; greedier, greediest 1. Having or showing a strong or excessive desire to acquire money or possess things, especially wishing to possess more than what one needs or deserves.2. Having or showing a desire to eat or drink in large or excessive amounts.3. Extremely eager or desirous for an activity or pursuit; greedy for the opportunity to prove their ability.American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language. Fifth Edition. Copyright 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (r̥)Adj; greedier or greediest1. excessively desirous of food or wealth, esp in large amounts; voracious2. (foll by: for) eager (for): a man greedy for success. [Old English *grēdig*; related to Old Norse *gr̥thugr*, Gothic *grēdags* hungry, Old High German *grāc*Collins English Dictionary Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (gr̥)Adj; greedier, greediest 1. excessively desirous of wealth, profit, etc. 2. having a strong or great desire for food or drink; voracious 3. keenly desirous; eager (often fol. by of or for). [before 900; Middle English *greedy*, Old English *grēdig*, c. Old High German *grāc*, Old Norse *gr̥thugr*, Gothic *grēdags*] Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. Adj.1.greedy - immoderately desirous of acquiring e.g. wealth; "they are avaricious and will do anything for money"; "casting covetous eyes on his neighbor's fields"; "a grasping old miser"; "grasping commercialism"; "greedy for money and power"; "grew richer and greedier"; "prehensile employers stingy with raises for their employees"avaricious, grabby, grasping, covetous, prehensileacquisitive - eager to acquire and possess things especially material possessions or ideas; "an acquisitive mind"; "an acquisitive society in which the craving for material things seems never satisfied"2.greedy - (often followed by 'for') ardently or excessively desirous; "avid for adventure"; "an avid ambition to succeed"; "fierce devouring affection"; "the esurient eyes of an avid curiosity"; "greedy for fame"avid, devouring, esurientdesirous, wishful - having or expressing desire for something; "desirous of high office"; "desirous of finding a quick solution to the problem"3.greedy - wanting to eat or drink more than one can reasonably consume; "don't be greedy with the cookies" gluttonous - given to excess in consumption of especially food or drink; "over-fed women and their gluttonous husbands"; "a gluttonous debauch"; "a gluttonous appetite for food and praise and pleasure"Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.adjective2. avaricious, grasping, selfish, insatiable, acquisitive, rapacious, materialistic, desirous, covetous He attacked greedy bosses for awarding themselves big pay rises, avaricious generous, benevolent, altruistic, unselfish, munificent, self-restrainedCollins Thesaurus of the English Language Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002adjectiveThe American Heritage Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. codiciosoavariciosoavaroglotngourmandavidedcupidegloutongoulu [grid] ADJ (greedier (compar) (greediest (super))) codicioso (for de) (for food) golosodon't be so greedy! no seas glotn!Collins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005Collins English/French Electronic Resource. HarperCollins Publishers 2005Collins German Dictionary Complete and Unabridged 7th Edition 2005. William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1980 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007 [grid] adj (-ier (comp) (-iest (super))) greedy (for) (gen) avido/a (di); (for food) goloso/a (di), ghiotto/a (di), ingordo/a (di), ingordo/a (di)Collins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition HarperCollins Publishers 1995 (grid) noun a (too) great desire for food, money etc. Eating five cakes is just sheer greed. begerigheid, gulsigheid gancia nenasystnost, lanost die Gier, der Geiz gr̥dighed , avaricia; gula aplus aheus avidit, gloutonmerie , pohlepa, lakomost mohsg; kapzsisg kerakusan gr̥gi avidit; golosit godumas, gobumas rijba; mantkr̥ba gelojoh gulzigheid; gierigheidgr̥digheit, griskhetakomstwo, zachanno cobia lcomie, aviditate : nensytnos, paravos lakomost pohlepa glupskhet, sniknhet agzlk s tham lam greedy adjectivegreedily adverb gulsig ganaciosamente nenasyt, chamtv̆ gierig gr̥dig; griskt , con avaricia/codicia; glotonamente aplat aneesti avidement pohlepon p̆zsvran dengan rakus gr̆gisiega avidamente godiai rijgi; mantkr̆gi dengan gelojoh gulzig, begerig; gieriggr̆dig, begjrlig zachannie avidamente lacom, cu lcomie : nensytne poeljivo pohlepon glupskt, grigt agzlkke tham lam greediness noun gulsigheid gancia nenasystnost, chamtv̆ost die Gier gr̆dighed; griskhed , avaricia, codicia; gula aplus aheus avidit , pohlepa mohsg, kapzsisg sifāt rakus gr̆gi avidit; golosit godumas, gobumas rijba; mantkr̆ba sifāt gelojoh gulzigheid, hebzucht, gierigheidgr̆digheit, begjrlighet zachanno cobia lcomie nensytnos lakomost pohlepnost glupskhet, grigriht , agzlk thī tham lam Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary 2006-2013 K Dictionaries Ltd. nenasyt gr̆dig gierig avaro, codicioso anhe cupide pohlepan avido hebzuchtig gr̆dig chciwy ganacioso girig agzł tham lam Multilingual Translator HarperCollins Publishers 2009 Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to your blog, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: As he grew rich he grew greedy; and thinking to get at once all the gold the Goose could give, he killed it and opened it only to find nothing."The grim and greedy one was soon prepared, savage and fierce, and in sleep he seized upon thirty of the thanes, and thence he again departed exulting in his prey, to go home with the carcasses of the slain, to reach his own dwelling.They had a little conochological cabinet, and a little metallurgical cabinet, and a little mineralogical cabinet; and the specimens were all arranged and labelled, and the bits of stone and ore looked as though they might have been broken from the parent substances by those tremendously hard instruments their own names; and, to paraphrase the idle legend of Peter Piper, who had never found his way into their nursery. If the greedy little Gradgrinds gasped at more than this, what was it for good gracious goodness' sake, that the greedy little Gradgrinds gasped it!"Oh, you greedy thing!" said Tom, when she had swallowed the last morsel.They are as a rose whose fragrance has been exhausted by greedy and indiscriminate smelling.That was a stupid trip of ours, after all, and I wouldn't advise any body who is greedy for excitement to undertake it.The Mouse had a good cleaning out while the Cat was gone, and made the house tidy; but the greedy Cat ate the fat every bit up."Many a time," says he, "was my little lodge thronged, or rather piled with bearers, for they lay on the ground, one leaning over the other, until there was no further room, all listening with greedy ears to the wonders which the Great Spirit had revealed to the greedy appetite and eats everything in sight.His greedy attitude upset his friends.Fun Conversation-style ExplanationImagine someone at a buffet, piling their plate high with food. They aren't stoppingthey're so greedy! That's the essence: wanting more than what's reasonable or fair. Detailed Breakdown Why Use "Greedy"?Why Use "Greedy"?When to Use ItAlternatives To describe excessive desireWhen someone or something wants more than they need"Avaricious," "Insatiable"To criticize behavior or attitudesWhen someone's greed causes problems"Selfish," "Materialistic"To evoke vivid imageryIn storytelling or descriptive writing"Voracious," "Rapacious"Knowing when and how to use greedy enhances clarity and adds color to your writing. Tips for Success in Using "Greedy"Be speciously. Instead of just saying greedy, clarify what they are greedy for, e.g., greedy for money, greed for power.Use it with adjectives. Pair with words like extremely or incredibly for stronger emphasis: extremely greedy.Match tone accordingly. Remember, greedy can sound negative or even sarcastic depending on context. Common Mistakes and How to Avoid ThemMisusing "greedy" to describe neutral desires.Incorrect: I am greedy for success.Correct: I am ambitious for success, not greedy.Confusing "greedy" with "hungry."Hungry relates to needing food, while greedy relates to wanting more than necessary across various domains.Overusing "greedy" in formal writing.Use sparingly and choose synonyms when appropriate to elevate your tone. Variations and Related TermsWordPart of SpeechSlight NuanceUsage ExampleAvariciousAdjectiveExcessive greed for wealthHis avaricious nature was obvious.RapaciousAdjectiveAggressively greedyThe rapacious tyrant chased its prey.InsatiableAdjectiveImpossible to satisfyShe had an insatiable desire for knowledge.SelfishAdjectiveWanting for oneself onlyHis selfishness cost him friends.Using these variations helps diversify your language and adapt to different contexts. Why Is Understanding "Greedy" Important?Grasping the concept of greedy helps you better interpret literature, media, and conversations. It also enables you to describe human behavior accurately, whether for essays, stories, or daily speech. Recognizing greed and its subtle nuances enhances moral and social awareness, too. Practice Exercises to Master "Greedy"Let's put theory into practice with some quick activities.1. Fill-in-the-BlankThe \_\_\_\_\_ child refused to share his toys with his friends.The businessman's \_\_\_\_\_ tendencies led to his downfall.She looked \_\_\_\_\_ at the buffet table.2. Error CorrectionIncorrect: He was greed for fame.Correct: He was greedy for fame.3. Identifications the underlined word greedy or not?The cat's insatiable hunger made it hunt all night.4. Sentence ConstructionCreate a sentence using greedy to describe a person's attitude toward money.Example: My uncle is so greedy, he's always after more money.5. Category MatchingWordCategoryGreedyPersonality traitGluttonousEating behaviorAvariciousMoney-orientedInsatiableDesires that cant be satisfiedMatch the words to their categories. Summary & Final ThoughtsAlright, folks! Today, we unpacked greedy from every angleits meaning, usage, common mistakes, variations, and tips for mastery. Remember, greedy is more than just a negative trait; understanding it deeply enhances your language skills and social insights.So, the next time you come across someone or something displaying greed, youll know exactly how to describe it. Keep practicing with the exercises, be mindful of context, and soon, greedy will become a natural part of your vocabulary arsenal.Thanks for hanging out with me today! Use greedy wisely, and stay curious about wordstheyre powerful tools in your language toolkit. Want more vocabulary tips? Keep exploring, and you'll become a master at describing the world around you! Greed isnt always as obvious as someone hoarding stacks of gold like a modern-day dragon. Sometimes, its subtle, wrapped in polished manners, or cleverly disguised as ambition. The signs of greed shine through and often, theyre more entertaining than alarming. Theres something inherently fascinating about greedy behavior. Its as if a switch flips in someones brain, and suddenly everything revolves around me, myself, and I. From pocketing extra office supplies to monopolizing the best seat at any meeting, greed comes in many forms. And while it might make us roll our eyes or groan in frustration, it can also provide a good laugh if were not directly involved, of course.But how can you spot greed without having to draw up a full psychological profile? Here are some relatable signs someone might be greedy.1. Piling Their Plate at a BuffetImagine Credit: ShutterstockWhen it comes to buffets, we all know that one person who treats it like a competitive sport. Their plate looks less like a meal and more like a structural engineering experiment, piled so high youre half-expecting it to collapse under its own weight.And lets not forget the follow-up trips, where they bypass the fill a plate rule entirely and start building towers of food like its the seventh wonder of the world. Greedy individuals are often all about taking as much as they can without considering others. Its a spectacle to witness, albeit a frustrating one for everyone else at the table.2. They Take all the CreditImagine Credit: Shutterstock.Greedy people have an uncanny ability to swoop in and claim credit for things they didnt actually do. Did you stay late to finalize that presentation? Suddenly, its their brilliant idea that saved the day. Did someone else in the group contribute an innovative solution? Theyre already crafting an acceptance speech before the team meeting wraps up.This behavior stems from a deep-rooted need to shine even if the spotlight wasnt originally meant for them. By grabbing credit for others hard work, they position themselves as indispensable while leaving a trail of annoyed colleagues in their wake.3. Being Penny PinchersImage Credit: Deposit Photos.Weve all encountered someone who takes splitting the bill to absurd extremes. Instead of dividing the cost evenly, theyll whip out a calculator and deduct their portion of the shared appetizer or tally up who drank what from the pitcher of sangria.Somewhat, they always manage to pay less, leaving everyone else scratching their heads. Their frugality extends beyond group outings, too. Greedy penny pinchers often hoard resources, whether its office supplies or snacks from the breakroom.4. Their Giftng Is OpportunisticImage Credit: Shutterstock.Not all gift-giving is a way to show love, celebrate, and build connections. When dealing with the greedy type, its less about generosity and more about strategy. Their gifts come with more strings attached than a puppet show. It can be a favor owed or a sneaky power play; theres always an agenda. And when its their turn to receive, theyre pros at "subtle" hint-dropping, turning gift-giving into an Olympic sport of awkwardness. For them, its all about getting exactly what they want, with zero concern for the social chaos they leave in their wake.5. They Have an "Endless" List of WantsImage Credit: Deposit Photos.Have you ever met someone who has it all but still wants more? Welcome to the world of the perpetually unsatisfied. It doesnt matter how much theyve got they always find a reason to want just a little extra. Bigger house? Of course. Fancier car? Naturally. A pile of cash large enough to swim in? Still not enough.They dont just buy the latest gadget; theyve got a full TED Talk prepared on why their life will collapse without that one extra feature. Their motto is You can never have too much of a good thing or anything, really.6. They Dont Know How to Be GratefulImage Credit: Shutterstock.One of the most glaring signs of greed is an inability to show genuine appreciation. If someone gifts them a kind gesture or provides help, their response is rarely "thank you" and more often something like, "Well, its about time" or "This is the least you could do."When they get what they want, its never quite enough, and gratitude is replaced by an attitude that suggests they are merely entitled to it. If you ever find someone too busy thinking about what theyll receive next instead of acknowledging what theyve just been given, youve probably spotted a case of unrelenting greed.7. They Cant Handle SharingImage Credit: Deposit Photos.Have you ever noticed that some people react to the idea of sharing like its a personal affront? That's because sharing requires giving up a piece of what theyve claimed as their own. Greedy individuals find it incredibly difficult to share anything, whether its food, ideas, or resources.Their fear of losing what they've acquired is evident in how tightly they cling to their possessions. And if they do share, expect them to remind you of it later after all, nothing is truly free when youre dealing with a greedy person.8. They Have No EmpathyImage Credit: Deposit Photos.Greed is like a black hole it absorbs everything around it with no regard for others. A greedy person is so focused on their own desires that they lack the ability to consider how their actions affect those around them.Theyll take more than their fair share without a second thought, oblivious to the needs or feelings of others. To them, other people's struggles are irrelevant as long as theyre getting what they want.9. They Have No Respect for BoundariesImage Credit: Shutterstock.Greed is like a bulldozer it flattens any boundary in its path. Personal space, time, or resources dont stand a chance. Greedy people wont think twice about crossing lines to get what they want.If you set a limit, theyll push against it, testing how much they can take without considering that theres a no trespassing sign. To them, boundaries are obstacles to be ignored in the pursuit of more.10. Theyre Always CynicalImage Credit: Deposit Photos.Greed is like a glass half-empty thats always looking for a refill. No matter how much they have, theyll insist its never enough, constantly skeptical that others are getting more than they deserve. Their cynicism makes it impossible to enjoy whats already on the table.Theyre often too busy worrying about what someone else might be getting. To top it off, they genuinely believe others are being self-centered for not yielding to their endless demands, as if everyone should be as eager to satisfy them as they are to take.11. Theyre Overly ParanoidImage Credit: Deposit Photos.Greed breeds paranoia. A greedy person always seems to believe someoneos out to snatch whats rightfully theirs whether or not theres any proof. Theyll overanalyze every glance, every move, convinced theres a master plan to steal their piece of the pie.The irony is that theyre never satisfied with their own pie, no matter how big it is, because theyre too busy eyeing everyone elses. Maybe its because they assume the world shares their I want it all mindset.12. They Want Instant GratificationImage Credit: Shutterstock.Greed is like a microwave; it demands quick results and can't wait for anything. A greedy person has no patience for delayed satisfaction or long-term rewards. Their desire for instant gratification fuels their greed, driving them to take shortcuts or make impulsive decisions without considering the consequences.Whatever they want, they want it now; who has time to work for something over time? Waiting for something good to come to them just doesn't fit with their immediate needs.Source

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