gentry

noun

ˈjen-trē

plural gentries

Definition of gentry

1a : upper or ruling class : aristocracy
b : a class whose members are entitled to bear a coat of arms though not of noble rank especially : wealthy
landowners having such status
2 : people of a specified class or kind : folks no real heroes or heroines among the academic gentry— R. G.
Hanvey
3a : the condition or rank of a gentleman
b obsolete : the qualities appropriate to a person of gentle (see gentle entry 1 sense 1a) birth especially :
courtesy

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Synonyms & Antonyms for gentry

Synonyms

aristocracy, elite, gentility, gentelfolk (also gentlefolks), nobility, patriciate, quality, upper class, upper crust

Antonyms

proletarians, proletariat

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Examples of gentry in a Sentence

poor tenant farmers working for landed gentry the old-line yachting gentry frowns on vulgar displays of
wealth

Recent Examples on the Web

Like a lot of things with this team, that needs to change post-All-Star break, especially because the schedule
serves up more of MLB’s gentry. — Globe Staff, BostonGlobe.com, "Red Sox needed Dodgers rematch as a
reminder of what they can do," 13 July 2019 Unlike a militiaman or an officer drawn from the gentry, who
shared the ethos of the larger society, professionals were a breed apart whose foremost loyalty to the military
caste made them a threat to liberty. — William Anthony Hay, WSJ, "‘The Tragedy of Benedict Arnold’ and
‘Turncoat’ Review: His Own Worst Enemy," 24 May 2018

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of the word 'gentry.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its
First Known Use of *gentry*

14th century, in the meaning defined at sense 3b

**History and Etymology for gentry**

Middle English *gentrie* "high birth or rank, properties ideally characteristic of those of high birth, the wellborn collectively," borrowed from Anglo-French *genterie* "high birth," from *gent* "of aristocratic birth" + -erie -ery — more at gent entry 1

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