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# gentry

noun

gen·try | \ 'jen-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, gentlefolk (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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## 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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