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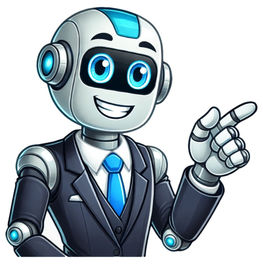

adverb (4)adjective (5)noun (1)in or during the first part of a period of time, a course of action, a series of events, etc..in the early part of the morning.before the usual or appointed time; ahead of time.They came early and found their hosts still dressing.far back in time.The Greeks early learned to sail and navigate.occurring in the first part of a period of time, a course of action, a series of events, etc..an early hour of the day.occurring before the usual or appointed time.Synonyms: premature, beforehandbelonging to a period far back in time.early French architecture.occurring in the near future.I look forward to an early reply.(of a fruit or vegetable) appearing or maturing before most others of its type.a fruit or vegetable that appears before most others of its type.before the expected or usual timeoccurring in or characteristic of the first part of a period or sequenceoccurring in or characteristic of a period far back in timeoccurring in the near futurenot before the time or date mentionedtoo soon to tell how things will turn out"Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012before the expected or usual timenear the first part of a period or sequenceI was talking to him earlier"Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012earliness noun'earliness nounOrigin of early1First recorded before 950; Middle English erlich (adjective), erliche (adverb), Old English ǣrlīc, ǣrlīce, variant of ārlīc, ārlīce, from ār "soon, early" (ere) + līc(e) -lyOrigin of early1Old English ǣrlīce, from ǣr ere + -lice -ly ²; related to Old Norse arligaIdiomsearly on, with but little time elapsed; early in the course of a process, project, etc.; early in the game.Examples have not been reviewed.Since Swift's Eras Tour wrapped in Vancouver in early December, the singer has been hitting up NFL games — including the Kansas City Chiefs' sad-trombone 2025 Super Bowl — and celebrating the purchase of her master recordings.What if early love was just another form of delirium?In search of the "perfect meal," Bourdain travels the world in his earliest series.I think it was still a little early to tell.Ben told the BBC earlier this year that he felt ignored by the authorities.Definitions and idiom definitions from Dictionary.com Unabridged, based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2023Idioms from The American Heritage® Idioms Dictionary copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.Warren, Earlearly adopterBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrsstuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC Also found in: Thesaurus, Medical, Acronyms, Idioms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia.Related to early: early pregnancy (ûr'lē)adj. ear·li·er, ear·li·est 1. Of or occurring near the beginning of a given series, period of time, or course of events: in the early morning; scored two runs in the early innings.2. a. Of or belonging to a previous or remote period of time: the early inhabitants of the British Isles.b. Of or belonging to an initial stage of development: an early form of life; an early computer.3. Occurring, developing, or appearing before the expected or usual time: an early spring; an early retirement.4. Maturing or developing relatively soon: an early variety of tomato.5. Occurring in the near future: hoped for an early end to the negotiations.adv. ear·lier, ear·liest 1. a. Near the beginning of a given series, period of time, or course of events: departed early in the day; scored important victories early in the campaign.b. At or near the beginning of the morning: She never used to get up so early.2. At or during a remote or initial period: decided very early to go into medicine.3. Before the expected or usual time: arrived at the meeting a few minutes early.4. Soon in relation to others of its kind: a rose that was cultivated to bloom early.Idiom: early on At an early stage or point: Early on in the movie, the main character loses his job.[Middle English erli, from Old English ǣrlīce : ǣr, before; see ayer- in Indo-European roots + -līce, adv. suff.; see -ly2.]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. ('ɜːlɪ) adj, -lier or -liest1. before the expected or usual time2. occurring in or characteristic of the first part of a period or sequence3. occurring in or characteristic of a period far back in time4. occurring in the near future5. at the earliest not before the time or date mentioned6. early days too soon to tell how things will turn out7. early doors informal esp sport Brit at an early stage adv, -lier8. before the expected or usual time9. near the first part of a period or sequence: I was talking to him earlier. [Old English ǣrlīce, from ǣr ere + -līce -ly2; related to Old Norse arliga]Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 ('ɜr li) adv. and adj. -li•er, -li•est. adv. 1. in or during the first part of a period of time, course of action, or series of events: early in the year. 2. in the early part of the morning: to get up early. 3. before the usual or appointed time; ahead of time. 4. far back in time: The Greeks early learned to navigate. adj. 5. occurring in the first part of a period of time, course of action, or series of events: an early hour of the day. 6. occurring before the usual or appointed time: an early dinner. 7. belonging to a period far back in time. 8. occurring in the near future: I look forward to an early reply. 9. Hort. appearing or maturing before most others of its type: early apples. Idioms: early on, not long after the beginning. [before 950; Middle English erlich (adj.), erliche (adv.), Old English ǣrlīc, ǣrlīce] Ear•ly ('ɜr li) n. Jubal Anderson, 1816–94, Confederate general in the U.S. Civil War. Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. Adj.1.early - at or near the beginning of a period of time or course of events or before the usual or expected time; "early morning"; "an early warning"; "early diagnosis"; "an early death"; "took early retirement"; "an early spring"; "early varieties of peas and tomatoes mature before most standard varieties"first - preceding all others in time or space or degree; "the first house on the right"; "the first day of spring"; "his first political race"; "her first baby"; "the first time"; "the first meetings of the new party"; "the first phase of his training"late - being or occurring at an advanced period of time or after a usual or expected time; "late evening"; "late 18th century"; "a late movie"; "took a late flight"; "had a late breakfast"middle - between an earlier and a later period of time; "in the middle years"; "in his middle thirties"2.early - being or occurring at an early stage of development; "in an early stage"; "early forms of life"; "early man"; "an early computer"later, late - at or toward an end or late period or stage of development; "the late phase of feudalism"; "a later symptom of the disease"; "later medical science could have saved the child"later, late - at or toward an end or late period or stage of development; "the late phase of feudalism"; "a later symptom of the disease"; "later medical science could have saved the child"3.early - belonging to the distant past; "the early inhabitants of Europe"; "former generations"; "in other times"past - earlier than the present time; no longer current; "time past"; "his youth is past"; "this past Thursday"; "the past year"4.early - very young; "at an early age"young, immature - (used of living things especially persons) in an early period of life or development or growth; "young people"5.early - of an early stage in the development of a language or literature; "the Early Hebrew alphabetical script is that used mainly from the 11th to the 6th centuries B.C."; "Early Modern English is represented in documents printed from 1476 to 1700"linguistics - the scientific study of languagelate - of a later stage in the development of a language or literature; used especially of dead languages; "Late Greek"middle - of a stage in the development of a language or literature between earlier and later stages; "Middle English is the English language from about 1100 to 1500"; "Middle Gaelic"6.early - expected in the near future; "look for an early end to the negotiations"future - yet to be or coming; "some future historian will evaluate him"Adv.1.early - during an early stage; "early on in her career"2.early - before the usual time or the time expected; "she graduated early"; "the house was completed ahead of time"belatedly, late, tardily - later than usual or than expected; "the train arrived late"; "we awoke late"; "the children came late to school"; "notice came so tardily that we almost missed the deadline"; "I belatedly wished her a happy birthday"3.early - in good time; "he awoke betimes that morning"Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.adverbadjective3. primitive, first, earliest, young, original, undeveloped, primordial, primeval early man's cultural development primitive seasoned, developed, mature, ripeProverbs"The early bird catches the worm""Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise"Collins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002adjectiveadverb The American Heritage® Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright © 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. برزیخ‌تاکراباکرا, قبل الأوانفي بدايةفي بدايةفي المَراحِل المُبَكِّرهفي وقتٍ مُبَكِّر پیش از موقع؛ زودتر varem etuajassa de bonne heure, en avancedמוקדמות, [illegible], [illegible] ranije korán; korábban lebih awal (of) snemma; á undan óðrum presto 予定より早く pirma laiko, anksti; laika lebih awal te vroegtidligwcześnie, za wcześnie مبکینی، په سر کې، پخوانی، لرغونی، نژدی، را نلونکی. cedo (mai) devreme rano; раньше skôr (pre)zgodaj ranije tidigt [illegible] erken, erkenden 提早 завчасно วก่อนเวลา معمول کی وقت سے sóm 早 adjective1. belonging to, or happening, near the beginning of a period of time etc. early morning; in the early part of the century. vroeë في بداية في بداية في بداية