

# Stable

Word of the Week – January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

“Stable” is an adjective and a noun, but the means are very different. Let’s have a look at the meanings and some example.

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The main meaning of the adjective “stable” is something not likely to fall over or break, something fixed firmly.

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- + These boats are designed to be very **stable**. You won’t fall in.
- + The book shelves are **stable** and won’t fall down in an earthquake.
- + The shape of the car makes it **stable** at high speeds.
- + Don’t stand on that, it’s not **stable**!!

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There are many related meanings of the “stable”, someone’s health not getting worse after an injury; sensible and not crazy, not easily upset; not likely to change or fail.

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- + He is in a **stable** condition after the surgery.
- + She is usually very mentally and emotionally **stable**.
- + He needed a more **stable** home environment.
- + They are now both in **stable**, happy relationships.
- + Consumer prices were **stable** but have now started to rise.

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**Note** that it is quite common to use the word “unstable” too.

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- + He has been very **unstable** since he got divorced.

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The meaning of the noun “stable” is a special building for keeping horses.

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- + The horse was led from its **stable** to the field.
- + The house has some old **stables** but there aren’t any horses.
- + She cleared out the **stable** every morning and replaced the hay.

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The pronunciation is / 'steɪb(ə)l /.

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This word is in the New General Service List, a list of the 3,000 most common words in English communication. [You can get the full list on our website by clicking here.](#)