

Definition of **relation noun** from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

relation *noun*

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- 1 ★ **relations** [plural] the way in which two people, groups or countries behave towards each other or deal with each other

- *diplomatic/international/foreign relations*
- *US-Chinese relations*
- *teacher-student relations*
- **relations with somebody/something** *Relations with neighbouring countries are under strain at present.*
- **relations between A and B** *We seek to improve relations between our two countries.*
- (formal) *to have sexual relations* (= to have sex)

Collocations **International relations**

SEE ALSO [industrial relations](#), [public relations](#), [race relations](#)

Extra Examples

TOPICS [Politics](#) B1

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- 2 ★ [uncountable, countable] the way in which two or more things are connected

- **relation between A and B** *the relation between rainfall and crop yields*
- **relation to something** *the relation of the farmer to the land*
- *The fee they are offering bears no relation to the amount of work involved.*
- *Little of what he said has any relation to fact.*
- **in relation to something** (formal) *I have some comments to make in relation to (= about) this matter.*
- *Its brain is small in relation to (= compared with) its body.*

Extra Examples

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3 ★ [countable] a person who is in the same family as somebody else

SYNONYM [relative](#)

- *a close/near/distant relation of mine*
- *a relation by marriage*
- *a party for friends and relations*
- *He's called Brady too, but we're **no relation** (= not related).*
- **relation to somebody** *Is he any relation to you?*
- *What relation is Rita to you?*

Wordfinder

SEE ALSO [blood relation](#), [poor relation](#)

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TOPICS [Family and relationships](#) B1

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Word Origin

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