

lackey

文A



^ English



Alternative forms



- [lacquey](#), [lacky](#)

Etymology



Borrowed from [Middle French](#) *laquais*, which is probably (via [Old Occitan](#) *lacai*?) from [Spanish](#) *lacayo*, itself perhaps from [Italian](#) *lacchè* and [Greek](#) λακές (*lakés*), from [Turkish](#) *ulak*. Another possibility is through [French](#), from [Catalan](#) *alacay*, from [Arabic](#) الْقَاضِي (*al-qāḍī*, "magistrate"). See French *laquais*.

Pronunciation



- [IPA](#)^(key): /ˈlæ.ki/

- [Audio](#) (Southern England)

0:02 [\(file\)](#)

- [Rhymes](#): -æki

Noun



lackey (*plural* **lackeys**)

1. A [footman](#), a [liveried](#) male servant.
 - quotations ▼
2. A [fawning](#), servile follower.
 - synonyms ▲
 - Synonyms: [lickspittle](#); see also
 - [Thesaurus:loyal follower](#)

Derived terms



- [lackey caterpillar](#)
- [lackey moth](#)

Translations



± liveried male servant	show ▼
± a fawning, servile follower	show ▼

Verb



lackey (*third-person singular simple present* **lackeys**, *present participle* **lackeying**, *simple past and past participle* **lackeyed**)

1. (*transitive*) To attend, wait upon, [serve obsequiously](#).
 - quotations ▼
2. (*intransitive, obsolete*) To [toady](#), play the [flunky](#).

References



- [Douglas Harper](#) (2001–2023), "[lackey](#)^[↗]", in [Online Etymology Dictionary](#).

Anagrams



- [Ackley](#), [Yackel](#)

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