

APSU Writing Center

Seam and Seem

Word	Seam	Seem
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a noun that means a line along which two pieces of fabric are sewn together in a garment or other article • where two things meet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a verb that means to give the impression or sensation of being something or having a particular quality

Seam is a nouns that means the place where two pieces of fabric or other material are joined.

- Example: Mary took her new dress to a seamstress to have a **seam** adjusted.
- Example: Extra work is needed if you must have a **seam** between two pieces of trim on a wall.

Seem is a verb that means to appear or to give an impression.

- Example: It would **seem** that there are no appointments available for today.
- Example: You two **seem** to get along well together.

- **Hint:** Seam contains an “a” and the word “apron” is a garment that has seams.

Reel and Real

Word	Reel	Real
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a noun that means a spool of long, narrow material wound around a cylinder • a verb that means to wind into a spool and to stagger or stumble 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • having the quality of existence or truthfulness • a synonym for the word “very” • a math number

Reel is a noun that refers to a cylindrical object that holds whatever winds around it such as film, thread, fishing line, and masking tape. As a verb it is the act of winding something in a circular motion.

- Example: He handed over the **reel** of film for the movie night at the theater.
- Example: Modern fishing **reels** have complex attachments to aid in casting and winding up fishing line.

Real is something that is true, genuine, actual, and significant. In math it is defined as one of an infinite set of quantities that can be represented by a point on the number line.

- Example: **Real** life is much different from fairy tales.
- Example: -6, $13/2$, $\sqrt{2}$, π , and 5 are all **real** numbers.
- Example: She looked away from the scene, unwilling to believe what she saw was **real**.

- **Hint:** Real with an "a" is the "actual thing."

APSU Writing Center

References

Brians, P. (2023). *seam / seem*. Washington State University.
<https://brians.wsu.edu/2016/05/30/seam-seem/>

Brewer, R. (2021, January 4). *Real vs. Reel (Grammar Rules)*. Writers Digest.
<https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-fiction/real-vs-reel-grammar-rules>

Writing Explained. (2023). *Reel vs. Real: What's the Difference?* Writing Explained.
<https://writingexplained.org/reel-vs-real-difference>

Writing Explained. (2023). *Seam vs. Seem: What's the Difference?* Writing Explained.
<https://writingexplained.org/seam-or-seem-difference>