



VIDEO & PODCAST TRANSCRIPT #019

What is the Definition of VIRTUAL?

Slide 1:

What is the Definition of VIRTUAL?

Slide 2:

In everyday English, the word virtual is synonymous with 'almost' or 'nearly'.

For example . . .

Slide 3:

Due to the bad weather, the traffic came to a virtual standstill.

Meaning: the traffic had almost stopped moving

Slide 4:

Virtual in the Computing Environment

From around 1959, the word "virtual" took on a special meaning in the world of computer technology. It refers to something that does not physically exist but appears to exist through computer software.

Here are two common phrases:

- Virtual Memory
- Virtual Reality

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What is Virtual Memory?

A computer's memory can be greatly enlarged, beyond the capacity of physical memory blocks, by making virtual locations appear to be actual ones.

Here are physical memory blocks:

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If the physical memory blocks become full, data can be temporarily transferred to the hard disk to a space call a paging file. This is Virtual Memory.

This frees space in physical memory to complete urgent tasks and after, the data from the hard disk (Virtual Memory) can be moved back again to the physical memory blocks.

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What Is Virtual Reality?

This phrase came into use around 1989. It refers to an environment generated by a computer, which looks as if it is real, and allows the user to interact with it. Computer games employ this technology but it also has uses beyond the world of entertainment.

For example, fire departments can use virtual reality to train fireman to experience the conditions inside a burning building or show how a fire can develop.

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One more example . . .

In October, 2016, Sony released the Virtual Reality Headset which was designed to work with the PlayStation 4 home video game console.

Slide 9:

So remember, when the word "virtual" is used in the computer environment, it refers to something that doesn't physically exist, but appears to!

Slide 10:

Get my FREE Vocabulary Builder and add these advanced words to your vocabulary!

- Obsolete
- Sporadic
- Ludicrous
- Tantamount
- Sceptical

Go to: <http://goodenglish.online>

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