

strait

Synonyms

straits
tight
narrow
confined
constraining
restrictive
pinch
predicament

Part of speech

noun
or
adjective

Antonyms

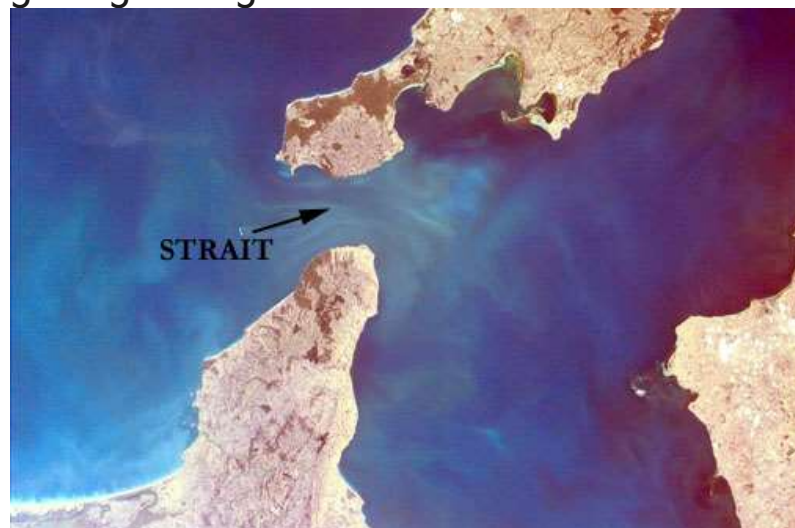
open water
easy
unconstrained

Definition

A narrow waterway joining two larger bodies of water. The Strait of Gibraltar, for example, connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean.

A strait is often dangerous and difficult for ships, because of the risk of hitting a rock on either side.

Also in a conflict, it could be an easy place for enemies to attack you, or to stop ships from getting through.



Another, related meaning is “tight, narrow, or constricted” and “difficult, dangerous, awkward”

Word Pairs

straitjacket
Bering Strait
Strait(s) of Gibraltar



desperate straits
strait-laced

Examples

Horatius outlines his courageous plan to hold off the invading Etruscan army, saying:

“In yon strait path a thousand
May well be stopped by three:”



“The U.S. has spent \$8 trillion ‘protecting’ the Straits of Hormuz”

What is located between
Malaysia and Singapore?

Straits of
Johor

The Bering Sea along with the Bering Strait, forms the divide between the two largest landmasses on Earth: Eurasia and The Americas.

Word roots

1150–1200; Middle English *streit*
Latin *strictus* constricted,
from *stringere* to bind tightly

Not to be confused with: *straight*.

Words with similar
word roots

strict

constrict

restrict

stringent

strain