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garbled ['gɑːbəld] Context #1 | Adjective Confused or jumbled, especially in speech or writing. Garbled information is difficult to understand and often contains errors or inconsistencies. Synonyms confused, jumbled, muddled. Word Description / Examples garbled Used when referring to information or communication that is distorted or unclear. The message was garbled, and I couldn't understand what he was trying to say. Her speech came out garbled due to the poor phone connection. confused Used to describe a state of being unable to think clearly or understand something. I was confused by the complex instructions given by the teacher. She looked confused when I explained the technical details. jumbled Used when referring to things that are mixed together in a disordered or chaotic manner. The papers on his desk were jumbled, making it hard to find the needed document. All the puzzle pieces were jumbled together in the box. muddled Used to describe a situation or state of mind that is confused and lacking coherence. After the long meeting, my thoughts were muddled and I couldn't focus. The storyline of the movie was so muddled that it was hard to follow. Examples of usage The garbled message was full of typos and missing words. His garbled explanation only added to the confusion. Context #2 | Verb To mix up or distort information, making it unclear or difficult to understand. Garbling can occur due to technical issues, human error, or intentional manipulation. Synonyms confuse, distort, muddle. Word Description / Examples garbled Best suited for describing messages or information that is mixed up in a way that makes it difficult to understand, often because it has been transmitted inaccurately. The email was garbled due to a technical error, making it hard to read distort Appropriate when describing something that has been changed so that it is no longer accurate or represents the truth, often intentionally. This word can have a negative connotation. The politician tried to distort the facts to support his argument confuse Used when someone cannot think clearly or understand something properly, often making them uncertain or perplexed. The complex instructions confused the students muddle Used to describe a situation where things are mixed up in a disorganized way, often leading to confusion and messiness. The sudden change in plans muddled the entire schedule for the event Examples of usage The telephone line was garbled, making it hard to hear the conversation. She accused him of garbling the facts to suit his own agenda. Communication Garbled messages often occur in digital communications, where poor signal can scramble what was originally sent. This phenomenon is seen in various forms of media, including phone calls and video chats, when the clarity of speech diminishes. In legal contexts, garbled statements can lead to misunderstandings, emphasizing the need for clear communication. Psychology Garbled speech can reflect anxiety, making it difficult for someone to express their thoughts clearly during stressful situations. Psychological studies have found that stress can lead to cognitive overload, resulting in jumbled communication patterns. Speech therapy often focuses on helping individuals articulate their thoughts more clearly to avoid garbled output. Literature Garbled dialogue can be a literary device used by authors to convey confusion or miscommunication between characters. Notable works often utilize garbled language to reveal the inner turmoil of characters, enhancing emotional depth. The use of garbled phrases in poetry can create a unique rhythm, highlighting the complexity of human thoughts. Technology In computer science, the term 'garbled text' refers to data that has become corrupted, making it unreadable. Data compression techniques can sometimes lead to garbled outputs if not properly implemented. Garble is also used in cybersecurity, where garbling data can protect sensitive information from unauthorized access. Main points about word origin The word 'garbled' comes from the Old French term 'garbeler', which means to sift or remove impurities. It originally referred to something being mixed up or distorted, particularly in the context of language and letters. The transition of the word into English happened in the early 17th century, highlighting its long-standing association with confusion. The word 'garbled' originated from the Middle English word 'garbelen', which meant to sort out a jumble of wool fibers. Over time, it evolved to refer to the mixing up or distorting of information. The use of 'garbled' in the context of communication dates back to the 17th century, highlighting the long history of struggles with clear and accurate information dissemination. adjective jump to other results (of a message or story) told in a way that confuses the person listening, usually by somebody who is shocked or in a hurry synonym confusedHe gave a garbled account of what had happened.There was a garbled message from her on my voicemail.Word Originlate Middle English (in the sense ‘sift out, cleanse’): from Anglo-Latin and Italian garbellare, from Arabic ǵarbala ‘sift’, perhaps from late Latin cribellare ‘to sieve’, from Latin cribrum ‘sieve’ + -ed. See garbled in the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary Nearby words garbanzo noun garbed adjective garbled adjective garbo noun Greta Garbo railway noun From the Word list Oxford 3000 A2 Oxford Learner's Dictionaries Word of the Day top of page✔ Add 3,700 must-know words to your vocabulary. ✔ All-in-one: dictionary, thesaurus, & workbook. ✔ 147 categorized lessons, 428 practical activities. ✔ Suitable for students & professionals of all ages. ✔ Ideal preparation for: TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS, SAT, ACT, GRE, GMAT, CPE, BEC, PTE, FCEUnclear, jumbled, or distorted, usually referring to speech, writing, or communication."The radio transmission was so garbled that I couldn't make out a single word."When information or messages are garbled, they become muddled or unintelligible, making it difficult to understand their intended meaning. This can occur due to various reasons such as technical issues, poor reception, language barriers, or errors in transmission. A garbled message may contain mixed-up or scrambled words, incorrect grammar, or incomplete sentences, leading to confusion and misinterpretation. The resulting communication may be incoherent or lacking clarity, hindering effective comprehension and conveying a clear message. In essence, the term "garbled" highlights a state of confusion or disorder within the information being conveyed, often requiring additional effort to decipher or untangle for accurate understanding.1. Her garbled explanation made no sense to anyone in the room.2. After waking up, his speech was still garbled from the medication he had taken.3. The garbled text message, full of typos, left us all puzzled.4. His notes were a garbled mess, making it impossible to discern any useful information.5. The phone connection was terrible, and her voice came through in garbled fragments.6. The garbled audio recording left the detectives with very little to work with. The adjective 'garbled' finds its etymological origins in the Middle English word 'garbelen,' which meant 'to remove impurities from spices or herbs.' This Middle English term is believed to have been influenced by the Old French word 'garbeler,' which had a similar meaning. Over time, the term 'garble' shifted in meaning to refer to the process of sorting or sifting things to separate the good from the bad. From there, it acquired a figurative sense, describing information or communication that is unclear, jumbled, or distorted due to errors or confusion. The etymology of 'garbled' thus reflects its historical connection to the idea of separating or sifting through information, which eventually led to its use in describing muddled or distorted speech, writing, or communication.1. His excitement was so overwhelming that his words came out in a garbled rush.2. The reception on the old TV was poor, and the sound was so garbled that it ruined the show.3. The foreign language, combined with static, created a garbled cacophony over the loudspeakers.4. His garbled rendition of the national anthem left the audience feeling rather confused.5. The ancient manuscript was full of garbled text and cryptic symbols, challenging historians to decode its meaning.6. Her garbled message left us puzzled and confused, seeking clarity.7. The garbled transcript made the conversation hard to follow, frustrating everyone.8. The static made his voice sound garbled on the call, causing communication issues.9. His garbled explanation only deepened the mystery, leaving us more uncertain.10. The garbled text was a result of a faulty keyboard, causing typing errors.11. She tried to speak, but her words came out garbled, leading to miscommunication.12. The garbled instructions led to a botched assembly, resulting in confusion.13. The garbled signal disrupted the radio broadcast, angering the listeners.14. His garbled speech hinted at hidden emotions, making it difficult to understand him.15. The garbled code caused software errors to occur, impacting functionality.16. The garbled notes in the melody created an eerie vibe, unsettling the audience.17. The garbled announcement caused chaos at the airport, leading to delays.18. His garbled excuse failed to convince anyone, raising suspicions.19. The garbled translation lost the original meaning, distorting the message.20. The garbled script left the actors bewildered, affecting their performance.21. Her garbled apology didn't mend the relationship, leaving things unresolved.22. The garbled news report caused misinformation, spreading confusion.23. The garbled message was a result of poor reception, hindering communication.24. His garbled testimony cast doubt on his credibility, raising questions.25. The garbled signal disrupted the video conference, causing frustration.Clarity and Candor, High School 2, Unclear and Uncertainconfused,incoherent,muddled,unclear,unintelligibledisordered,distorted,incomprehensible,jumbled,scrambled,tangleddistorted, clear, coherent, articulateeb68db_2358f9a39a1e4bddb928ba53cf868661.mp3bottom of page Also found in: Thesaurus, Encyclopedia. (gär′bəl)tr.v. gar·bled, gar·bling, gar·bles 1. To mix up or distort to such an extent as to make misleading or incomprehensible: The report garbled all the historical facts.2. To scramble (a signal or message), as by erroneous encoding or faulty transmission.3. Archaic To sort out; cull.n. The act or an instance of garbling: a garble of nonsense syllables.[Middle English garbelen, to inspect and remove refuse from spices, from Anglo-Norman garbeler, to sift, and from Medieval Latin garbellāre, both from Arabic ǵarbala, to select, from ǵirbāl, sieve, from Late Latin crībellum, diminutive of Latin crībrum; see krei- in Indo-European roots.]American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. ('gɑːbəld) adjjumbled or unclear because of distortion or omissionsCollins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.Collins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002 překroucenýzkomolenýzkreslenýCollins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005 ['gɑːrbəld] adj [message, version] → confus(e)Collins English/French Electronic Resource. © HarperCollins Publishers 2005Collins German Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged 7th Edition 2005. © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1980 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007 ['gɑːbld] adj (speech, account) → ingarbugliato/a, distorto/a; (words) → incomprensibileCollins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition © HarperCollins Publishers 1995 ('gaːbld) adjective (of a story etc) mixed up. The child gave a garbled account of the accident. verdraaide بُشَوَّه неточно представен confuso překroucený, zkreslený, zkomolený entstellen forkludret; fordrejet διαστρεβλωμένος, μπερδεμένοςconfuso, incoherente segane تحريف شده sekava embrouillé, confus מבולבל, לא ברור □□□□□ □□ □□□□-□□□□□□ □□ □□□□□□ □□□□ zbrkan elferdített campur aduk afbakaður, umsnúinn confuso 混同した supainiotas, iškraipytas sagrozīt; izkropļot (faktus u.tml.) tidak tentu biji butirnya verwardforvansket, rotet, dårlig gjengittchaotyczny تحریف شوی confuso trunchiat, confuz в искажённом skomolený popačen konfuzan vilseledande, förvirrad □□□□; □□□□ karışık 混淆的 перекручений وا□ توڑا مروڑا lẫn lộn 混淆的Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary © 2006-2013 K Dictionaries Ltd. Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: In a word, as the relation is carefully garbled of all the levity and looseness that was in it, so it all applied, and with the utmost care, to virtuous and religious uses.How Dusarian emissaries had found employment in important posts in the foreign offices of the three great nations, and how, through these men, messages from one jeddak to another were altered and garbled until the patience and pride of the three rulers and former friends could no longer endure the humiliations and insults contained in these falsified papers--not any of this he knew.Some of them he omits, doubtless as incredible, but others he retains, often in a form where the impossible is merely garbled into the unintelligible.At last they told her, or told her such a garbled story as people in difficulties tell.Steene sent for the mince-pies, and, I am grieved to add, garbled her household accounts in order to conceal the fact from her husband.I, for my part, could not but examine the life-preserver with which I had once smitten Raffles himself to the ground: actually, there was his blood upon it still; and seeing my horror, the clerk plunged into a characteristically garbled version of that incident also.But in one place he dealt with, and I quote his words, "the industrial and social revolution that is taking place in society." A reporter present seized upon the word "revolution," divorced it from the text, and wrote a garbled account that made Emil Gluck appear an anarchist.Of course, we will get the same garbled gobbledygook that we had during the decimalisation, when overnight we lost 40 pence in the pound and out came the rubbish that some companies would round down whereas others would round up.Fellow pundit Ian Wright got himself tangled up as he gave his garbled reaction to France's penalty-that-really-shouldn'thave been-given.Featuring colorful video game artwork and screenshots on every page, All-Time Gaming Records is an exciting tour of records set in the world of video games - from a glimpse into "speedrunning" communities who compete to finish a specific game in the smallest amount of time, to jockeying for high scores, battling in fighting game tournaments, legendary efforts to reach the "kill screen" (when the game reaches such a high level that its code produces errors and a garbled display) in classic games like Pac-Man or Donkey Kong, and much more.A nasty, repetitive, grisly and garbled work where nothing is more alarming than Franco's 1980s-style stringy moustache. View synonyms for garbledjumbled or unclear because of distortion or omissions“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Examples have not been reviewed.He didn’t immediately respond and when he did speak his words were garbled.Now every garbled statement or odd behavior from Trump will reinforce her message.One sign is often that the person has weakness or numbness in one arm, as well as one side of their face appearing to drop, and their speech being slurred or garbled.There are familiar scenes involving bottles of soju, moments of awkward conversation and garbled philosophizing in this film.Weakness in her right arm and hand left her unable to feed herself, and her speech remained somewhat garbled.deficient fragmentary inadequate insufficient lacking partial sketchy garbleGarboBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrsstuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC