

ar·ti·fi·cial s3

/ˌɑːtʃᵻˈfiʃ l◀ \$ ˌɑːr-／

adjective [usually before noun]

- 1** ARTIFICIAL not real or not made of natural things but made to be like something that is real or natural

SYN false

OPP

artificial flowers

artificial light

artificial fertilizers

- 2** an artificial situation or quality exists because someone has made it exist, and not because it is really necessary:

artificial distinctions

artificial barriers of gender and race

- 3** PRETEND artificial behaviour is not sincere – used to show disapproval

OPP

an artificial smile

— **artificially** **adv**:

Food prices are being kept artificially low.

— **artificiality** /ˌɑːtʃᵻˈfiʃiˈæliːti \$ ˌɑːr-／ **noun** [uncountable]

COLLOCATIONS

nouns

artificial light/lighting *Energy is being wasted by using artificial lighting when daylight is adequate.*

artificial sweeteners (= used to make food or drink taste sweeter) *Diet drinks contain artificial sweeteners like saccharin.*

artificial colours (= used in food) *I try to buy food that is free from artificial colours.*

artificial flavours *Ice cream often has artificial flavours in it.*

artificial additives (= used to give food more colour or taste) *Artificial additives such as colourings, sweeteners and flavour enhancers aren't permitted in baby foods.*

artificial preservatives (= used to preserve food) *This jam has no artificial preservatives.*

artificial flowers *a vase of stiff-looking artificial flowers*

an artificial environment *Animals hate being confined in an artificial environment.*

artificial grass *artificial grass tennis courts*

artificial snow *Some ski resorts use huge amounts of artificial snow.*

an artificial pitch (BrE) *The club is building a new artificial training pitch at its sports ground.*

THESAURUS

artificial not real or natural, but made to look or work like something real or natural: *artificial flowers* | *He was given an artificial heart.*

synthetic made using chemical processes rather than by natural processes: *synthetic fabrics* | *a synthetic version of the drug*

man-made made by people – used especially about geographical features and materials: *a man-made lake* | *man-made fibres*

fake made to look or seem like something else, especially in order to deceive people: *a fake passport* | *fake fur*

imitation made to look like something, but not real – used especially about guns, jewellery, and leather: *imitation firearms* |

imitation pearls

false artificial – used especially about teeth, EYELASHES, and BEARDS: *a set of false teeth*

simulated not real, but made to look, sound, or feel real, especially by means of special computers or machines: *a simulated space flight*

virtual made, done, seen etc on a computer, rather than in the real world: *a virtual tour of the garden*

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Old French

Origin: *artificiel*, from Latin *artificialis*, from *artificium*; → ARTIFICE

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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