

ac·tu·al

S1 W2

/ˈæktʃuəl/

adjective [only before noun]

1 REAL/NOT IMAGINARY used to emphasize that something is real or exact:

I'm not joking. Those were his actual words.

I know Germany won, but I can't tell you the actual score.

Interest is only charged on the actual amount borrowed.

*In **actual fact** (= really) , there is little evidence to support the allegations.*

⚠ Do not use **actual** to mean 'at the present time'. Use **current** or **present**: *the current (NOT actual) economic policy*

2 the actual something MAIN

used to introduce the most important part of an event or activity:

The programme starts at 8.00 but the actual film doesn't start until 8.30.

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Old French

Origin: *actuel*, from Late Latin *actualis*, from Latin *actus*; → [ACT](#) ¹

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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