

aim<sup>1</sup>

S2 W2

/eɪm/

noun

**1** [countable] PURPOSE something you hope to achieve by doing something  
:

**aim of**

*The aim of the research is to find new food sources.*

*The **main aim** of the course is to improve your writing.*

**with the aim of doing something**

*a campaign with the aim of helping victims of crime*

*Teamwork is required in order to **achieve** these **aims**.*

*a policy which sets out the school's **aims and objectives***

**2 take aim** SHOOT

to point a gun or weapon at someone or something you want to shoot:

**take aim at**

*Alan took aim at the target.*

**3 take aim at somebody/something** (AmE)

to criticize someone or something:

*Critics took aim at the President.*

**4** SHOOT[uncountable] someone's ability to hit what they are aiming at when they throw or shoot something:

*Val's aim was very good.*

## COLLOCATIONSense 1

### adjectives

the main/primary/principal aim *The country's main aim was to slow inflation.*

the ultimate/eventual/long-term aim (= that you hope to

achieve in the end) *The ultimate aim is to replace gasoline with non-polluting energy sources.*

the immediate/initial/short-term aim (= that you hope to achieve quickly) *The immediate aim is to develop the travel business.*

the overall/general/broad aim (= that concerns the main aim rather than all the details) *The overall aim of the project is to encourage young people to stay in higher education. |*

*Guided by the general aim of the project, we aimed to reach a number of key objectives.*

a specific aim (= an exact aim) *What are the specific aims of the course?*

the underlying aim (= a basic aim, that people sometimes do not notice) *The games all have an underlying aim: survival.*

a political aim *We utterly condemn any acts of violence in pursuit of political aims.*

a strategic aim (= that is part of a military, political, or business plan) *The broader strategic aims were to safeguard the Dutch East Indies against attack.*

an educational aim *the educational aims of the school*

somebody's declared/stated aim (= an aim that somebody has stated clearly) *The Department's declared aim is targeting benefits where they are most needed.*

a common aim (= an aim that people, countries etc share) *We know the value of working closely together to pursue our common aims.*

## verbs

have an aim *His trip to Milan, his third in two weeks, had a precise aim.*

achieve/fulfil your aim *The Internet bank achieved its aim of attracting 50,000 customers last year. |*

*Once she had decided to go into publishing, she set out to fulfil*

*her aim.*

pursue your aims (= try to achieve them over a long period of time) *We worked closely together to pursue our common aims.*

further your aims (= help them to progress or be successful) *The group is prepared to use violence to further its political aims.*

set out the aims of something *Is there a set of guidelines setting out the aims of study?*

## phrases

a set of aims *The organization has a set of aims which are listed on its website.*

aims and objectives (= the things you hope to achieve) *These aims and objectives are set out in chapters two and three.*

## THESAURUS

**aim** something you hope to achieve by doing something: *The main aim of the plan was to provide employment for local people.*

**goal** something important that you hope to achieve in the future, even though it may take a long time: *The country can still achieve its goal of reducing poverty by a third.*

**target** a particular amount or total that you want to achieve: *The company is on track to meet its target of increasing profits by 10%.*

**objective** the specific thing that you are trying to achieve – used especially about things that have been officially discussed and agreed upon in business, politics etc: *Their main objective is to halt the flow of drugs. | We met to set the business objectives for the coming year.*

**ambition** something that you very much want to achieve in your future career: *Her ambition was to go to law school and become an attorney. | Earlier this year, he achieved his ambition*

