

ad·mire ^{S3}

/əd'maɪə \$ -'maɪr/

verb [transitive not in progressive]

- 1** ADMIRE to respect and like someone because they have done something that you think is good:

*I really **admire the way** she brings up those kids all on her own.*

admire somebody for (doing) something

*Lewis was **much admired** for his work on medieval literature.*

- 2** GOOD/EXCELLENT to look at something and think how beautiful or impressive it is:

*We stopped halfway to **admire the view**.*

Sal stood back to admire her work.

- 3** ATTRACTED TO SOMEBODY **admire somebody from afar** (literary)
to be attracted to someone, without letting them know

THESAURUS

admire to like someone because they have achieved something special, or they have skills or qualities that you would like to have: *I admire your courage. | She admired him for the way he dealt with the situation.*

respect to have a good opinion of someone, even if you do not agree with them, for example because they have achieved a lot or have high standards: *She is respected by all her colleagues at the university. | She's an actor who is not prepared to compromise, and her audience loves and respects her for that.*

revere /rɪ'vɪə \$ -'vɪr/ (formal) to greatly admire someone because of their achievements and personal qualities, especially someone famous: *Mandela is revered as one of the great leaders*

of our time.

look up to somebody to admire someone who is older or who has more experience than you: *All the young comedians look up to him.*

think highly of somebody to think that someone is good at what they do: *His teachers seem to think very highly of him.*

idolize to admire someone so much that you think they are perfect – used especially about famous people or people in your family: *He idolized his brother. | Jane grew up idolizing Princess Diana.*

hero-worship to admire someone a lot and want to be like them – often used when this seems unreasonable or extreme: *She hero-worshipped John to such an extent that she was blind to his faults.*

Word origin

Date: 1500–1600

Language: French

Origin: *admirer*, from Latin *admirari*, from *ad-* 'to' + *mirari* 'to wonder'

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

© Pearson Education Limited 2009, 2011, 2015