

au·to·mat·ic¹

S3 AC

/ˌɔːtə'mætɪk ◀ \$ ɪˌpɜː-/

adjective

1 MACHINE an automatic machine is designed to work without needing someone to operate it for each part of a process → **manual:**

an automatic weapon

an automatic gearbox

*My camera is **fully automatic**.*

2 ALWAYS/EVERY TIME something that is automatic always happens as a result of something you have done, especially because of a rule or law:

Littering results in an automatic fine.

3 THINK ABOUT done without thinking, especially because you have done the same thing many times before:

Practise the breathing techniques until they become automatic.

Word origin

Date: 1700–1800

Language: Greek

Origin: *automatos* 'acting by itself', from *auto-* (→ AUTO-)

automatic²

noun

[countable]

1 a weapon that can fire bullets continuously

2 a car with a system of GEARS that operate themselves without the driver needing to change them

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