

ar·e·a

S1 W1 AC

/ˈeəriə \$ ˈeriə/

noun [countable]

1 AREA a particular part of a country, town etc:

Only cheeses made in this area may be labelled ‘Roquefort.’
Crime rates are much higher in urban areas.

area of

Many areas of Africa have suffered severe drought this year.

2 AREA a part of a house, office, garden etc that is used for a particular purpose:

*a **no-smoking area***

*Their apartment has a large **kitchen area**.*

*Come through into the **dining area**.*

*the **reception area** of the hotel*

*a **storage area** on the ground floor*

3 AREA OF KNOWLEDGE, DUTIES, STUDY ETC a particular subject, range of activities, or group of related subjects:

*The course covers three main **subject areas**.*

*This study has clearly identified a major **problem area** for the National Health Service.*

We’re funding research into new areas such as law enforcement technology.

area of

*reforms in the **key areas** of health and education*

4 SIZE the amount of space that a flat surface or shape covers:

area of

an area of 2,000 square miles

a formula to calculate the area of a circle

→ grey area [AT GREY](#)¹ (7)

COLLOCATIONS – Meaning 1 **ADJECTIVES/NOUN + area**

a rural area (= in the countryside) *Schools in rural areas are often very small.*

an urban area (= in a town or city) *90% of the English population live in urban areas.*

a remote/isolated area (= a long way from towns and cities) *a remote area of northeast Afghanistan*

the local area *He quickly made friends in the local area.*

the surrounding area (= the area around a place) *The tourist office will have a map of the surrounding area.*

outlying areas (= far from the centre of a town, village etc) *The programme also includes plans to reforest outlying areas of the city.*

a wooded area *The plane crashed into trees in a heavily wooded area.*

a mountainous area *the mountainous areas of the Massif Central*

a coastal area *The bird is found mainly in coastal areas.*

a desert area *The hot, dry wind blows in from the desert areas of North Africa.*

a residential area (= a part of a town where people live) *They had a large house in a pleasant residential area.*

an industrial area *People living in industrial areas are exposed to these types of chemicals.*

a built-up area (= with a lot of buildings close together) *New development will not be allowed outside the existing built-up area.*

a deprived area (= where many poor people live) *He grew up in*

one of the toughest and most deprived areas of Glasgow.

an inner-city area (= the central part of a city, where many poor people live) *When will something be done to improve our inner-city areas?*

a middle-class/working-class etc area (= where a particular class of people live) *She was born in a working-class area of London.*

a metropolitan area (= a very large city) *major metropolitan areas such as Delhi, Bombay, and Calcutta*

a conservation area (= for preserving nature or old buildings) *a new scheme to create a nature conservation area*

a geographical area (= one that is shown on a map) *The survey took place in three geographical areas.*

verbs

move into/out of an area *She had just moved into the area and knew very few people. |*

Many young people are moving out of rural areas.

keep/stay away from an area *The police ordered people to stay away from the area.*

be spread out over a wide area *The town is spread out over a wide area.*

be scattered over a wide area *Parts of the plane were scattered over a wide area.*

COLLOCATIONS – Meaning 2

ADJECTIVES/NOUN + area

the kitchen/dining/bedroom/bathroom area *The kitchen area is rather small.*

the living area (= the main room in a house, where people relax) *The main living area was on the second floor.*

a reception area (= a desk where visitors arriving in a hotel or large organization go first) *Visitors should please report to the*

reception area.

a storage area (= a place for keeping things that are not being used) *There's a temporary storage area where you can put those boxes.*

a picnic area (= an area outdoors where you can eat a meal) *We pulled off the highway into a picnic area for lunch.*

a play area (= a place for children to play) *There's a nice play area for the kiddies.*

a no-smoking/ non-smoking area *The airport terminal is a no-smoking area.*

a smoking area *Employers do not have to provide smoking areas.*

THESAURUS

area a part of a town or country, or of the world: *They live in a very wealthy area.* | *coastal areas*

region a large area of a country or the world: *the northwest region of Russia* | *desert regions*

zone an area that is different from other areas around it in some way: *a war zone* | *a no-parking zone* | *We crossed two different time zones* areas where there is a particular time compared to the rest of the world.

district one of the areas a city or town is officially divided into, or an area of a city where a particular group live or an activity happens: *the Chelsea district of Manhattan* |

the business/financial/theatre etc district: the financial district of London

neighbourhood (BrE), **neighborhood** (AmE) /

'neɪbəhʊd \$ -ər- / an area of a town where people live: *a friendly neighbourhood* | *There are lots of trees in our neighborhood.*

suburb an area outside the centre of a city, where people live:
a suburb of Boston

quarter an area of a town or city where people of a particular nationality live: *the French quarter of New Orleans*

slum an area of a city that is in very bad condition, where many poor people live: *He grew up in the slums of East London.*

ghetto an area of a city where poor people of a particular race or class live: *a black baby born in the ghetto*

Word origin

Date: 1500–1600

Language: Latin

Origin: 'piece of flat ground'

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

© Pearson Education Limited 2009, 2011, 2015