

# distal adjective

dis·tal ('di-stəl)

1 **anatomy** : situated away from the point of attachment or origin or a central point especially of the body

→ compare [PROXIMAL](#)  
the *distal* ends of the tibia and fibula

2 **dentistry** : of, relating to, or being the surface of a tooth that is next to the tooth behind it or that is farthest from the middle of the front of the jaw

→ compare [MESIAL](#) sense 2

'di-stəl-ē adverb



## Recent Examples on the Web

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Examining the skeletons in the pit, Valenzuela found that most of the thrush bones were skulls, breastbones and *distal* bones of wings and legs.

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House are the proximate cause, the ***distal*** cause of the present circumstance is an erosion of public trust in higher education.

— Mark Robison, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, 7 May 2025

The prostate cancer stops responding to hormone therapy and has spread via the bloodstream or lymph nodes to ***distal*** parts of the body, like the bones, liver, lungs, or brain.

— Matthew Wosnitzer, *Verywell Health*, 12 May 2025

The Celtics listed Tatum as doubtful for Game 2 of their first-round playoff series against the Magic with a right ***distal*** radius bone bruise in his wrist.

— Zack Cox, *Boston Herald*, 22 Apr. 2025

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## Etymology

*distant* + *-al*

## First Known Use

1803, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

## Time Traveler



Dictionary

Thesaurus

distal convoluted  
tubule

pistil                    pistol

polycrystal

[See All Rhymes for \*distal\*](#)

distain                    **distal**

distal convoluted tubule

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# distal adjective

dis-tal ('dis-təl 

**1** : situated away from the point of attachment or origin or a central point: as

**a** : located away from the center of the body

the *distal* end of a bone

→ compare [PROXIMAL sense 1a](#)

**b** : located away from the mesial plane of the body

→ compare [MESIAL sense 2](#)

**c** : of, relating to, or being the surface of a tooth that is next to the following tooth counting from the middle of the front of the upper or lower jaw or that faces the back of the mouth in the case of the last

2 : physical or social rather than sensory

→ compare [PROXIMAL](#) sense 2

-ē 

adverb

Last Updated: 28 Jul 2025 - Updated example sentences

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