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or·di·nar·y  (ôr dn-ěr'ē)

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adj.

1. Commonly encountered; usual: *an ordinary delay at the bridge tolls*. See Synonyms at [common](#).
2.
 - a. Having no special ability, quality, or purpose: *ordinary people; ordinary black tea*.
 - b. Not particularly good; not better than average: *The service was good, but the food was very ordinary*.
3. *Law* Having direct authority to decide a case, rather than being delegated that power, as a judge.
4. *Mathematics* Designating a differential equation containing no more than one independent variable.

n. pl. or·di·nar·ies

1. The usual or normal condition or course of events: *Nothing out of the ordinary occurred*.
2. *Law* A judge with direct authority as opposed to delegated authority to decide a case.
3. often **Ordinary Ecclesiastical**
 - a. The parts of the Mass that remain unchanged from day to day.
 - b. A division of the Roman Breviary containing the unchangeable parts of the office other than the Psalms.
 - c. A cleric, such as the residential bishop of a diocese, with ordinary jurisdiction over a specified territory.
4. *Heraldry* One of the simplest and commonest charges, such as the bend and the cross.
5. *Chiefly British*
 - a. A complete meal provided at a fixed price.
 - b. A tavern or inn providing such a meal.

[Middle English *ordinarie*, from Old French, from Latin *ordinārius*, from *ōrdō*, *ordin-*, order; see **ar-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

or·di·nar i·ness *n.*

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