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re·cov·er  (rĭ-kŭv ər)

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v. re·cov·ered, re·cov·er·ing, re·cov·ers

v.tr.

1.

a. To get back (something lost or taken away), especially by making an effort: *recovered his keys near the water cooler; recovered the ball in the end zone.*

b. To search for, find, and bring back: *divers recovered the body; researchers recovering fossils.*

c. To get back control or possession of (land) by military conquest or legal action.

2.

a. To have (the use, possession, or control of something) restored: *recovered the use of his fingers.*

b. To regain the use of (a faculty) or be restored to (a normal or usual condition): *recovered his wits after hearing the news; recovered his health after treatment.*

c. To cause to be restored to a normal or usual condition: *After two weeks on the medicine, he was fully recovered.*

3. To discover or be able to follow (a trail or scent) after losing it.

4.

a. To procure (usable substances, such as metal) from unusable substances, such as ore or waste.

b. To bring (land) into or return to a suitable condition for use; reclaim.

5. To bring under observation again: *"watching the comet since it was first recovered—first spotted since its 1910 visit" (Christian Science Monitor).*

v.intr.

1. To regain a normal or usual condition, as of health: *a patient who recovered from the flu; businesses that recovered quickly from the recession.*

2. To receive a favorable judgment in a lawsuit.

[Middle English *recoveren*, from Old French *recoverer*, from Latin *recuperāre*; see [RECUPERATE](#).]

re·cov·er·a·ble *adj.*

re·cov·er·er *n.*

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