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civ·il  (sĭv əl)

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adj.

1. Of, relating to, or befitting a citizen or citizens: *civil duties*.
2. Of or relating to citizens and their interrelations with one another or with the state: *government agencies concerned with civil affairs*.
3. Of ordinary citizens or ordinary community life as distinguished from the military or the ecclesiastical: *married in a civil ceremony at city hall*.
4. Sufficiently observing or befitting accepted social usages; polite: *a civil reply*. See Synonyms at [polite](#).
5. Being in accordance with or denoting legally recognized divisions of time: *a civil year*.
6. *Law* Relating to the rights of private individuals and legal proceedings concerning these rights as distinguished from criminal, military, or international regulations or proceedings.

[Middle English, from Latin *civilis*, from *civis*, citizen; see [CIVIC](#).]

civ il·ly *adv.*

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