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dictionary

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English
Language



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scarce  (skârs)

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adj. **scarc·er, scarc·est**

1. Insufficient to meet a demand or requirement; short in supply: *Fresh vegetables were scarce during the drought.*
2. Hard to find; absent or rare: *Steel pennies are scarce now except in coin shops.*

adv.

Barely or hardly; scarcely.

Idiom:

make (oneself) scarce *Informal*

1. To stay away; be absent or elusive.
2. To depart, especially quickly or furtively; abscond.

[Middle English *scars*, from Old French *scars*, from Vulgar Latin **excarpsus*, narrow, cramped, from past participle of **excarpere*, to pluck out, alteration of Latin *excerpere*, to pick out; see [EXCERPT](#).]

scarce **ness** *n.*

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