compose  com · pose

Definition

verb

1. to form or be the parts of.

   *These twenty people compose the class.*
   *The class is composed of people from many different countries.*

2. to write a new piece of music.

   *She has composed several songs.*

Advanced Definition

transitive verb

1. to form or combine into a whole.

   *The director composed the choir of the best singers from each of the churches.*
   *The chef composed the salad of grapefruit wedges, avocado slices, and fresh greens.*

2. to be the parts or elements of; make up.

   *These twenty people compose the class.*

3. to create (music or written works).

   *Beethoven composed nine complete symphonies.*
   *I need some time to compose my speech for tomorrow.*
   *She's composing a letter of complaint to the school board.*

4. to bring or return (oneself) to a state of calm or readiness.

   *The violinist was nervous but composed himself before making his entrance.*
   *You must stop crying now and compose yourself.*

5. to bring to a state of stillness or quiet.

   *The master of ceremonies did his best to compose the hysterical crowd.*

intransitive verb

1. to create music or written works.

   *I need silence while I'm composing.*
These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Beethoven's last symphony took six years to compose.
2. Devon had never heard the term before, but he wondered if it was related to what he typically did in his garage - mixing strange sounds together to compose an entire track.
3. There are about one hundred elements, and together those elements compose everything in the known physical universe.
4. But standing there, sandwiched between a stroller and a reeling businessman, I couldn't even get my journal out of my backpack, let alone compose my thoughts on its pages.
5. When he saw the flag waving above the fort in the morning, he knew it had not surrendered, and he was inspired to compose a poem about the victory, titled “The Defence of Fort McHenry.”