

Collins

175 YEARS OF DICTIONARY PUBLISHING

Dictionary



HarperCollins Publishers

Westerhill Road
Bishopbriggs
Glasgow
G64 2QT

Tenth edition 2009

REISSUED WITH REVISED SUPPLEMENT 2010

Reprint 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

© William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd 1979, 1986

© HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994 (Third updated edition), 1998,
2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010

UK QUARTERBOUND EDITION

ISBN 978-0-00-738233-0

UK STANDARD EDITION

ISBN 978-0-00-732119-3

AUSTRALIAN QUARTERBOUND EDITION

ISBN 978-0-7322-9009-2

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD EDITION

ISBN 978-0-7322-9008-5

NEW ZEALAND QUARTERBOUND EDITION

ISBN 978-0-00-732114-8

NEW ZEALAND STANDARD EDITION

ISBN 978-0-00-732115-5

Collins® is a registered trademark of
HarperCollins Publishers Limited

www.collinslanguage.com

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library

Designed by Wolfgang Homola

Typeset by Davidson Pre-Press, Glasgow

Printed in India by Gopsons Papers Ltd

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank those authors and publishers who kindly gave permission for copyright material to be used in the Collins corpus. We would also like to thank Times Newspapers Ltd for providing valuable data.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission in writing of the Publisher. This book is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

Entered words that we have reason to believe constitute trademarks have been designated as such. However, neither the presence nor absence of such designation should be regarded as affecting the legal status of any trademark.

When you buy a Collins dictionary or thesaurus and register on www.collinslanguage.com for the free online and digital services, you will not be charged by HarperCollins for access to Collins free Online Dictionary content on that website. However, your operator's charges for using the internet on your computer will apply. Costs vary from operator to operator. HarperCollins is not responsible for any charges levied by online service providers for accessing Collins free Online Dictionary on www.collinslanguage.com using these services.

HarperCollins does not warrant that the functions contained in www.collinslanguage.com content will be uninterrupted or error free, that defects will be corrected, or that www.collinslanguage.com or the server that makes it available are free of viruses or bugs. HarperCollins is not responsible for any access difficulties that may be experienced due to problems with network, web, online or mobile phone connections.

About the type

This dictionary is typeset in CollinsFedra, a special version of the Fedra family of types designed by Peter Bil'ak. CollinsFedra has been customized especially for Collins dictionaries; it includes both sans serif (for headwords) and serif (entries) versions, in several different weights. Its large x-height, its open 'eye', and its basis in the tradition of humanist letterforms make CollinsFedra both familiar and easy to read at small sizes. It has been designed to use the minimum space without sacrificing legibility, as well as including a number of characters and signs that are specific to dictionary typography. Its companion phonetic type is the first of its kind to be drawn according to the same principles as the regular typeface, rather than assembled from rotated and reflected characters from other types. Peter Bil'ak (born 1973, Slovakia) is a graphic and type designer living in the Netherlands. He is the author of two books, *Illegibility* and *Transparency*. As well as the Fedra family, he has designed several other typefaces including Eureka. His typotheque.com website has become a focal point for research and debate around contemporary type design.

La Trappe (French *la trappe*) *n* a monastery in NW France, in the village of Soligny-la-Trappe northeast of Alençon; founded in about 1140, site of the Trappist reform of Cistercian order in 1664
latría (la'tría) *n* RC Church, the adoration that may be offered to God alone

● **ETYMOLOGY** c16: via Latin from Greek *latreia* worship
latrine (la'trim) *n* a lavatory, as in a barracks, camp, etc

● **ETYMOLOGY** c17: from French, from Latin *lātrina*, shortened form of *lavatrina* bath, from *lavare* to wash
-latry *n* combining form indicating worship of or excessive veneration of: *Idolatry*; *Mariolatry* > **-latrous** *adj* combining form

● **ETYMOLOGY** from Greek *-latría*, from *latreia* worship
lats (lats) *n*, pl *lati* (læti) the standard monetary unit of Latvia, divided into 100 santimi

latte (læ'te, lɑ'te) *n* coffee made with hot milk

● **ETYMOLOGY** c20: from Italian (*caffè e*) *latte* (coffee and milk)

latten (læt'n) *n* metal or alloy, esp brass, made in thin sheets

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14: from Old French *laton*, of unknown origin

latter (lætə) *adj* (prenominal) 1 *a* denoting the second or second mentioned of two; distinguished from former *b* (as noun; functioning as sing or plural); the latter is not important 2 near or nearer the end: the latter part of a film 3 more advanced in time or sequence; later

● **USAGE** The *latter* should only be used to refer to the second of two items: *many people choose to go by hovercraft rather than use the ferry, but I prefer the latter*. The last of three or more items can be referred to as the *last-named*

latter-day *adj* present-day; modern

Latter-day Saint *n* a more formal name for a Mormon

latterly (lætəli) *adv* recently; lately

lattermost (lætə,most) *adj* a less common word for *last*

lattice (lætəs) *n* 1 Also called: *latticework* an open framework of strips of wood, metal, etc., arranged to form an ornamental pattern 2 *a* a gate, screen, etc., formed of such a framework *b* (as modifier): a lattice window 3 something, such as a decorative or heraldic device, resembling such a framework 4 an array of objects or points in a periodic pattern in two or three dimensions, esp an array of atoms, ions, etc., in a crystal or an array of points indicating their positions in space. See also *Bravais lattice* > *vb* 5 to make, adorn, or supply with a lattice or lattices > *lattice* *adj*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14: from Old French *lattis*, from *latte* LATH

lattice energy *n* chem the energy required to separate the ions of a crystal to an infinite distance, usually expressed in joules per mole

latus rectum (lætəs 'rektəm) *n*, pl *latera recta* (lætərə 'rektə) geometry a chord that passes through the focus of a conic and is perpendicular to the major axis

● **ETYMOLOGY** c18: New Latin: straight side

Latvia (lætviə) *n* a republic in NE Europe, on the Gulf of Riga and the Baltic Sea; ruled by Poland, Sweden, and Russia since the 13th century, Latvia was independent from 1919 until 1940 and was a Soviet republic (1940–91), gaining its independence after conflict with Soviet forces; it joined the EU in 2004. Latvia is mostly forested. Official language: Latvian. Religion: nonreligious, Christian. Currency: lats. Capital: Riga. Pop: 2 286 000 (2004 est). Area: 63 700 sq km (25 590 sq miles)

Latvian (lætviən) *adj* 1 of or relating to Latvia, its people, or their language > *n* 2 Also called: Lettish the official language of Latvia: closely related to Lithuanian and belonging to the Baltic branch of the Indo-European family 3 a native or inhabitant of Latvia

laud (ləʊd) *literary* > *vb* 1 (tr) to praise or glorify > *n* 2 praise or glorification > *lauder* *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14: *vb* from Latin *laudare*; *n* from *laudes*, pl of Latin *laus* praise

Laud (ləʊd) *n* William. 1573–1645, English prelate; archbishop of Canterbury (1633–45). His persecution of Puritans and his High Church policies in England and Scotland were a cause of the Civil War; he was impeached by the Long Parliament (1640) and executed

laudable (ləʊdəbəl) *adj* deserving or worthy of praise; admirable; commendable > *laudableness* or *laudability* *n* > *laudably* *adv*

laudanum (ləʊdʌnəm) *n* 1 a tincture of opium 2 (formerly) any medicine of which opium was the main ingredient

● **ETYMOLOGY** c16: New Latin, name chosen by Paracelsus for a preparation probably containing opium, perhaps based on *LABDANUM*

laudation (ləʊdeɪʃən) *n* a formal word for *praise*

laudatory (ləʊdeɪtəri, -tri) or **laudative** *adj* expressing or containing praise; eulogistic

Laudian (ləʊdiən) *adj* Church of England of or relating to the High-Church standards set up for the Church of England by Archbishop Laud

lauds (ləʊdz) *n* (functioning as singular or plural) chiefly RC Church the traditional morning prayer of the Western Church, constituting with matins the first of the seven canonical hours

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14: see LAUD

laugh (lɑ:f) *vb* 1 (intr) to express or manifest emotion, esp mirth or amusement, typically by expelling air from the lungs in short bursts to produce an inarticulate voiced noise, with the mouth open 2 (intr) (esp of certain mammals or birds) to make a noise resembling a laugh 3 (tr) to utter or express with laughter: *he laughed his derision at the play* 4 (tr) to bring or force (someone, esp oneself) into a certain condition by laughter: *he laughed himself sick* 5 (intr; foll by at) to make fun (of); jeer (at) 6 (intr; foll by over) to read or discuss something with laughter 7 *don't make me laugh* informal I don't believe you for a moment 8 *laugh all the way to the bank* informal to be unashamedly pleased at making a lot of money 9 *laugh in a person's face* to show open contempt or defiance towards a person 10 *laugh like a drain* informal to laugh loudly and coarsely 11 *laugh up one's sleeve* to laugh or have grounds for amusement, self-satisfaction, etc., secretly 12 *laugh on the other side of one's face* to show sudden disappointment or shame after appearing cheerful or confident 13 *be laughing* informal to be in a favourable situation > *n* 14 the act or an instance of laughing 15 a manner of laughter 16 informal a person or thing that causes laughter: *that holiday was a laugh* 17 the last laugh the final success in an argument, situation, etc., after previous defeat > See also *laugh away*, *laugh down*, *laugh off* > *laugher* *n* > *laughing* *n*, *adj* > *laughingly* *adv*

● **ETYMOLOGY** Old English *læhan*, *hlæhhen*; related to Gothic *hlahan*, Dutch *lachen*

laughable (ləʊfəbəl) *adj* 1 producing scorn; ludicrous: *he offered me a laughable sum for the picture* 2 arousing laughter > *laughableness* *n* > *laughably* *adv*

laugh away *vb* (tr, adverb) 1 to dismiss or dispel (something unpleasant) by laughter 2 to make (time) pass pleasantly by jesting

laugh down *vb* (tr, adverb) to silence by laughing contemptuously

laughing gas *n* another name for nitrous oxide

laughing hyena *n* the spotted hyena. See *hyena*

laughing jackass *n* another name for *kookaburra* (sense 1)

laughing stock *n* an object of humiliating ridicule: *his mistakes have made him a laughing stock*

laugh off *vb* (tr, adverb) to treat or dismiss lightly, esp with stoicism: *he laughed off his injuries*

laughter (lɑ:ftə) *n* 1 the action of or noise produced by laughing 2 the experience or manifestation of mirth, amusement, scorn, or joy

● **ETYMOLOGY** Old English *hlæhtor*; related to Old Norse *hlítr*

laughter club *n* a group of people who meet regularly to take part in communal laughing for therapeutic effect

launce (ləʊns) *n* another name for the *sand eel*

Launceston (ləʊnsəstən) *n* a city in Australia, the chief port of the island state of Tasmania on the Tamar River, 64 km (40 miles) from Bass Strait. Pop: 68 443 (2001)

launch¹ (ləʊntʃ) *vb* 1 to move (a vessel) into the water 2 to move (a newly built vessel) into the water for the first time 3 (tr) *a* to start off or set in motion: *to launch a scheme* *b* to put (a new product) on the market 4 (tr) to propel with force 5 to involve (oneself) totally and enthusiastically: *to launch oneself into work* 6 (tr) to set (a missile, spacecraft, etc) into motion 7 (tr) to catapult (an aircraft), as from the deck of an aircraft carrier 8 (intr; foll by into) to start talking or writing (about): *he launched into a story* 9 (intr; usually foll by out) to start (out) on a fresh course 10 (intr; usually foll by out) informal to spend a lot of money > *n* 11 an act or instance of launching

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14: from Anglo-French *lancher*, from Late Latin *lanciare* to use a lance, hence, to set in motion. See LANCE

launch² (ləʊntʃ) *n* 1 a motor driven boat used chiefly as a transport boat 2 the largest of the boats of a man-of-war

● **ETYMOLOGY** c17: via Spanish *lancha* and Portuguese from Malay *lancharan* boat, from *lanchar* speed

launcher (ləʊntʃə) *n* any installation, vehicle, or other device for launching rockets, missiles, or other projectiles

launch pad or **launching pad** *n* 1 a platform from which a spacecraft, rocket, etc., is launched 2 an effective starting point for a career, enterprise, or campaign

launch shoe or **launching shoe** *n* an attachment to an aircraft from which a missile is launched

launch vehicle or **launching vehicle** *n* 1 a rocket, without its payload, used to launch a spacecraft 2 another name for *booster* (sense 2)

launch window *n* the limited period during which a spacecraft can be launched on a particular mission

launder (ləʊndə) *vb* 1 to wash, sometimes starch, and often also iron (clothes, linen, etc) 2 (intr) to be capable of being laundered without shrinking, fading, etc 3 (tr) to process (something acquired illegally) to make it appear respectable, esp to process illegally acquired funds through a legitimate business or to send them to a foreign bank for subsequent transfer to a home bank > *n* 4 a water trough, esp one used for washing ore in mining > *launderer* *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14 (n, meaning: a person who washes linen): changed from *lavender* washerwoman, from Old French *lavandière*, ultimately from Latin *lavare* to wash

Launderette (ləʊndə'ret, ləʊnd'ret) *n* trademark Brit and NZ a commercial establishment where clothes can be washed and dried, using coin-operated machines. Also called (US, Canadian, and NZ): *Laudromat*

laundress (ləʊndrɪs) *n* a woman who launders clothes, sheets, etc, for a living

laundrette (ləʊnd'ret) *n* a variant of *Launderette*

Laudromat (ləʊndrə'mæt) *n* trademark US, Canadian, and NZ a commercial establishment where clothes can be washed and dried, using coin-operated machines. Also called (in Britain and certain other countries): *Launderette*, *laundrette*

laundry (ləʊndri) *n*, pl *-dries* 1 a place where clothes and linen are washed and ironed 2 the clothes or linen washed and ironed 3 the act of laundering

● **ETYMOLOGY** c16: changed from c14 *laundry*; see LAUNDER

laundry list *n* US and Canadian a list of items perceived as being long: *a laundry list of complaints*

laundryman (ləʊndrɪmən) *n*, pl *-men* 1 a man who collects or delivers laundry 2 a man who works in a laundry

laundrywoman (ləʊndrɪwʊmən) *n*, pl *-women* 1 a woman who collects or delivers laundry 2 a woman who works in a laundry

lauraceous (ləʊ'reɪʃəs) *adj* of, relating to, or belonging to the *Lauraceae*, a family of aromatic trees and shrubs having leathery leaves: includes the laurels and avocado