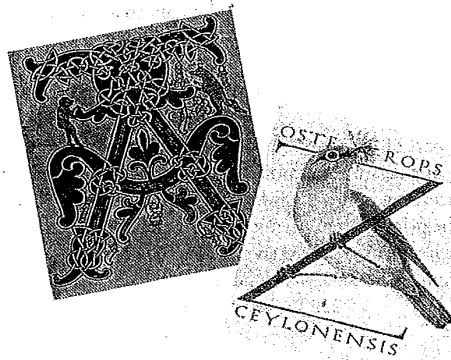


The
**American
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of the English Language

FOURTH EDITION



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iden·ti·fy (i-dén'ti-fī) *v.* **-fied, -fy·ing, -fies** —*tr.* 1. To establish the identity of. 2. To ascertain the origin, nature, or definitive characteristics of. 3. *Biology* To determine the taxonomic classification of (an organism). 4. To consider as identical or united; equate. 5. To associate or affiliate (oneself) closely with a person or group. —*intr.* To establish an identification with another or others. [Medieval Latin *identificare*, to make to resemble: Late Latin *identitas*, identity; see **IDENTITY** + Latin *-ficāre, -fy-*] —**iden·ti·fi·a·ble** *adj.* —**iden·ti·fi·a·bly** *adv.* —**iden·ti·fi·er** *n.*

Usage Note In the sense "to associate or affiliate (oneself) closely with a person or group," *identify* suggests a psychological empathy with the feelings or experiences of another person, as in *Most young readers of The Catcher in the Rye will readily identify (or identify themselves) with Holden Caulfield*. This usage derives originally from psychoanalytic writing, where it has a specific technical meaning, but like other terms from that field, it was widely regarded as jargon when introduced into wider use. In particular, some critics seized on the fact that in this sense the verb was often used intransitively, with no reflexive pronoun. In recent years, however, this use of *identify* without the reflexive has become standard and may have become even more conventional than the reflexive construction. Eighty-two percent of the Usage Panel accepts the sentence *I find it hard to identify with any of his characters*, whereas only 63 percent now accepts this same usage when the reflexive pronoun is used, as in *I find it hard to identify myself with any of his characters*.

iden·ti·ty (i-dén'ti-tē) *n., pl. -ties* 1. The collective aspect of the set of characteristics by which a thing is definitively recognizable or known: "If the broadcast group is the financial guts of the company, the news division is its public identity" (Bill Powell). 2. The set of behavioral or personal characteristics by which an individual is recognizable as a member of a group. 3. The quality or condition of being the same as something else. 4. The distinct personality of an individual regarded as a persisting entity; individuality. 5. *Mathematics* a. An equation that is satisfied by any number that replaces the letter for which the equation is defined. b. Identity element. [French *identité*, from Old French *identite*, from Late Latin *identitas*, from Latin *idem*, the same (influenced by Late Latin *essentia*, being, and *identidem*, repeatedly), from *id*, it. See **I** in Appendix I.]

identity crisis *n.* 1. A psychosocial state or condition of disorientation and role confusion occurring especially in adolescents as a result of conflicting internal and external experiences, pressures, and expectations and often producing acute anxiety. 2. An analogous state of confusion occurring in a social structure, such as an institution or a corporation.

identity element *n.* The element of a set of numbers that when combined with another number in a particular operation leaves that number unchanged. For example, 0 is the identity element under addition for the real numbers, since if *a* is any real number, *a* + 0 = 0 + *a* = *a*. Similarly, 1 is the identity element under multiplication for the real numbers, since *a* × 1 = 1 × *a* = *a*. Also called *unity*.

identity function *n.* *Mathematics* The function whose output is identical to its input.

identity matrix *n.* A square matrix with 1's along the diagonal from upper left to lower right and 0's in all other positions.

identity politics *n.* (used with a *sing.* or *pl. verb*) Political attitudes or positions that focus on the concerns of social groups identified mainly on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation: "However, identity politics, whether in the guise of nationalism, feminism, or some other form of political expression is on the defensive these days" (Clarence Lusane).

identity sign *n.* The symbol (=), used to designate identity rather than equality.

ideo- *pref.* Idea; ideography. [French *idéo-*, from Greek *idea*, form, idea. See **WEID-** in Appendix I.]

ide·o·gram (id'ē-ə-grām, i'dē-) *n.* 1. A character or symbol representing an idea or a thing without expressing the pronunciation of a particular word or words for it, as in the traffic sign commonly used for "no parking" or "parking prohibited." Also called *ideograph*. 2. See **LOGOGRAM**. 3. A graphic symbol, such as &, \$, or @. —**ide·o·gram·mat·ic** (grā-māt'ik) *adj.* —**ide·o·gram·mat·i·cal·ly** *adv.*

ide·o·graph (id'ē-ə-grāf) *n.* See **IDEOGRAM** (sense 1). —**ide·o·graph·ic** *adj.* —**ide·o·graph·i·cal·ly** *adv.*

ide·o·g·ra·phy (id'ē-ə-grā-fē, i'dē-) *n.* 1. The representation of ideas by graphic symbols. 2. The use of ideograms to express ideas.

ide·o·log·i·cal (i'dē-ə-lōj'i-kəl, id'ē-) *also* **ide·o·log·ic** (-lōj'ik) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to ideology. 2. Of or concerned with ideas.

ide·o·logue (i'dē-ə-lōg', -lōg', id'ē-) *n.* An advocate of a particular ideology, especially an official exponent of that ideology. [French *idéologue*, back-formation from *idéologie*, ideology. See **IDEOLOGY**.]

ide·ol·o·gy (i'dē-ə-lōj-ē, id'ē-) *n., pl. -gies* 1. The body of ideas reflecting the social needs and aspirations of an individual, group, class, or culture. 2. A set of doctrines or beliefs that form the basis of a political, economic, or other system. [French *idéologie*: *idéo-*, *ideo-* + *-logie*, *-logy*.] —**ide·ol·o·g·ist** *n.*

ide·o·mo·tor (i'dē-ə-mō'tər, id'ē-) *adj.* Of or relating to an unconscious or involuntary bodily movement made in response to a thought or idea rather than to a sensory stimulus.

ides (idz) *pl.n.* (used with a *sing.* or *pl. verb*) The 15th day of March, May, July, or October or the 13th day of the other months in the ancient Roman calendar. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *Idūs*.]

idio- *pref.* 1. One's own; private; personal: *idiolect*. 2. Distinct; sepa-

rate: *idioblast*. [Greek, from *idios*, personal, private. See **S(W)E-** in Appendix I.]

id·i·o·blast (id'ē-ə-blāst') *n.* A plant cell that differs noticeably in form from neighboring cells. —**id·i·o·blas·tic** *adj.*

id·i·o·cy (id'ē-ə-sē) *n., pl. -cies* 1. Extreme folly or stupidity. 2. A foolish or stupid utterance or deed. 3. *Psychology* The state or condition of being an idiot; profound mental retardation. [From **IDIOCY**.]

id·i·o·graph·ic (id'ē-ə-grāf'ik) *adj.* Relating to or concerned with discrete or unique facts or events: *History is an idiographic discipline, studying events that cannot be repeated*.

id·i·o·lect (id'ē-ə-lēkt') *n.* The speech of an individual, considered as a linguistic pattern unique among speakers of his or her language or dialect. [**IDIO-** + (**DIA**)**LECT**.] —**id·i·o·lec·tal**, **id·i·o·lec·tic** *adj.*

id·i·om (id'ē-əm) *n.* 1. A speech form or an expression of a given language that is peculiar to itself grammatically or cannot be understood from the individual meanings of its elements, as in *keep tabs on*. 2. The specific grammatical, syntactic, and structural character of a given language. 3. Regional speech or dialect. 4a. A specialized vocabulary used by a group of people; jargon: *legal idiom*. b. A style or manner of expression peculiar to a given people: "Also important is the uneasiness I've always felt at cutting myself off from my idiom, the American habits of speech and jest and reaction, all of them entirely different from the local variety" (S.J. Perelman). 5. A style of artistic expression characteristic of a particular individual, school, period, or medium: *the idiom of the French impressionists; the punk rock idiom*. [Late Latin *idiōma*, *idiōmat-*, from Greek, from *idiōsthai*, to make one's own, from *idios*, own, personal, private. See **S(W)E-** in Appendix I.]

id·i·o·mat·ic (id'ē-ə-māt'ik) *adj.* 1a. Peculiar to or characteristic of a given language. b. Characterized by proficient use of idiomatic expressions: *a foreigner who speaks idiomatic English*. 2. Resembling or having the nature of an idiom. 3. Using many idioms. 4. Peculiar to or characteristic of the style or manner of a particular group or people. —**id·i·o·mat·i·cal·ly** *adv.*

id·i·o·path·ic (id'ē-ə-pāth'ik, id'ē-ə-) *adj.* Of, relating to, or designating a disease having no known cause. —**id·i·o·path·i·cal·ly** *adv.*

id·i·o·p·a·thy (id'ē-ə-pā-thē) *n.* 1. A disease of unknown origin or cause. 2. A primary disease arising spontaneously with no apparent external cause. [New Latin *idiopathia*, primary disease, from Greek *idiopatheia*: *idio-*, *idio-* + *patheia*, *-pathy*.]

id·i·o·syn·cra·sy (id'ē-ə-sīng'krā-sē) *n., pl. -sies* 1. A structural or behavioral characteristic peculiar to an individual or group. 2. A physiological or temperamental peculiarity. 3. An unusual individual reaction to food or a drug. [Greek *idiosunkrāsia*: *idio-*, *idio-* + *sunkrāsia*, mixture, temperament (*sun-*, *syn-* + *krāsis*, a mixing; see **KRA-** in Appendix I).] —**id·i·o·syn·cra·tic** (-sīn'krāt'ik) *adj.* —**id·i·o·syn·cra·ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

id·i·ot (id'ē-ət) *n.* 1. A foolish or stupid person. 2. A person of profound mental retardation having a mental age below three years and generally being unable to learn connected speech or guard against common dangers. The term belongs to a classification system no longer in use and is now considered offensive. [Middle English, ignorant person, from Old French *idiote*, from Latin *idiōta*, from Greek *idiōtēs*, private person, layman, from *idios*, own, private. See **S(W)E-** in Appendix I.]

idiot box *n.* Slang A television.

idiot·ic (id'ē-ət'ik) *adj.* 1. Showing foolishness or stupidity. 2. Exhibiting idiocy. —**id·i·ot·i·cal·ly** *adv.*

idiot light *n.* Slang A light on the instrument panel of a motor vehicle that gives forewarning, as of an overheated engine.

id·i·ot·proof (id'ē-ət-prūf') *adj.* Slang Made or designed to be used or operated with very little risk of breakage or failure: "These point-and-shoot cameras are almost idiot-proof" (Donald H. Dunn).

idiot savant *n., pl. idiot savants* An intellectually disabled person who exhibits extraordinary ability in a highly specialized area, such as mathematics or music. [French: *idiot*, idiot + *savant*, learned.]

id·i·o·type (id'ē-ə-tīp') *n.* A set of one or more antigenic determinants specific to the variable region of an immunoglobulin molecule.

idle (id'l) *adj.* **id·ler, id·lest** 1a. Not employed or busy: *idle carpenters*. See synonyms at **INACTIVE**. b. Avoiding work or employment; lazy: *shiftless, idle youth*. See synonyms at **LAZY**. c. Not in use or operation: *idle hands*. 2. Lacking substance, value, or basis. See synonyms at **BASELESS**, **VAIN**. —*adv.* **id·led, id·ling, id·les** —*intr.* 1. To pass time without working or while avoiding work. 2. To move lazily and without purpose. 3. To run at a slow speed or out of gear. Used of a motor vehicle. —*tr.* 1. To pass (time) without working or while avoiding work; waste: *idle the afternoon away*. 2. To make or cause to be unemployed or inactive. 3. To cause (a motor, for example) to idle. —*phr.* 1. A state of idling. Used of a motor vehicle: *an engine running quietly at idle*. 2. A mechanism for regulating the speed at which an engine runs at rest: *set the idle higher to keep the motor from stalling*. [Middle English *idel*, from Old English *idel*.]

—**id·le·ness** *n.* —**id·ler** (id'lər) *n.* —**id·ly** *adv.*

idle character *n.* An alphanumeric or digital character that is transmitted over a communications line but does not appear in the output of the receiving terminal.

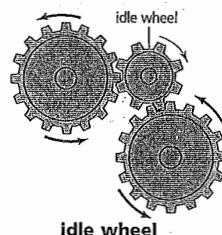
idle pulley *also idler pulley* *n.* A pulley on a shaft that rests on or presses against a drive belt to guide it or take up slack. Also called *idle wheel*.

idle wheel *n.* 1. A gear, wheel, or roller interposed between two similar parts to convey motion from one to the other without change in speed or direction of motion. 2. See **IDLE PULLEY**.

id·o·cra·se (i'də-krās', -krāz', id'ə-) *n.* See **VESUVIANITE**. [French: Greek *eidos*, form; see **WEID-** in Appendix I + *krāsis*, mixture; see **IDIO-SYNCRASY**.]

$$I_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

identity matrix



idle wheel

ā pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōō took
ā father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ū urge
ī pit	th thin
ī ple	th this
īr pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ā about, item
ō paw	♦ regionalism

Stress marks: ' (primary); ' (secondary), as in dictionary (dīk'shə-nēr'ē)