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Webster's II

New College Dictionary

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wire-worm (wîr'wûrm') *n.* 1. The wirelike larva of various click beetles, causing severe damage by boring into the roots of many kinds of plants. 2. Any of various millipedes.

wire-wove (wîr'wôv') *adj.* 1. Designating a high grade of writing paper with a smooth finish. 2. Made of woven wire.

wiring (wîr'îng) *n.* 1. The act of attaching, connecting, or installing electric wires. 2. A system of electric wires.

wir-ra (wîr'ə) *interj.* [*< Ir. Gael. a Muire, O Mary. Ir. — Used to express sorrow.*]

wiry (wîr'ē) *adj.* **-ier, -iest.** 1. Of or pertaining to wire. 2. Wirelike and kinky, as hair. 3. Sinewy and lean *<a wiry physique>* **-wir'i-ly** *adv.* **-wir'i-ness** *n.*

wis-dom (wîz'dəm) *n.* [*ME < OE wīsdōm < wīs, wise.*] 1. Understanding of what is true, right, or lasting. 2. Good judgment; common sense. 3. Learning; erudition.

Wisdom of Jesus, the Son of Si-rach (sî'rāk') *n.* — See table at BIBLE.

Wisdom of So-lo-mo-n (sôl'ə-mən) *n.* — See table at BIBLE.

wisdom tooth *n.* [*< NLat. dentes sapientiae, teeth of wisdom, their usu. being cut around the age of 20.*] One of four molars, the one on each side of both jaws, usu. erupting much later than the others.

wise (wîz) *adj.* **wis-er, wis-est.** [*ME < OE wīs.*] 1. Having wisdom or discernment for what is true, right, or lasting; judicious. 2. a. Displaying common sense: *PRUDENT <a wise choice>* b. Shrewd: *WIZARD.* 3. Having great learning: *ERUDITE <a wise philosopher>* 4. Having knowledge or information: *INFORMED <wise to my adversary's moves>* 5. *Slang.* Offensively self-assured: *ARROGANT. — get wise. Slang.* 1. To learn the facts or become aware *<got wise and tested their money>* 2. To become defiantly insolent *<a worker got wise with the foreman>* **— wise up. Slang.** To make or become aware or sophisticated. **— wise'ly** *adv.*

wise (wîz) *n.* [*ME < OE wīse.*] Method or way of doing: *FASHION <in wise>* *<in this wise>* *<in any wise>*

-wise *suff.* [*ME < OE -wīsan < -wīse, manner.*] 1. In a given manner, action, or position *<clockwise>* 2. With reference to: in regard to *<allarwise>* **usage:** The suffix *-wise* has a long history of use with meaning "in the manner or direction of," as in *clockwise* or *likewise*. Recently *-wise* has come into use as a noun suffix meaning "in relation to," as in *saleswise*. But indiscriminate coinage of terms with this suffix can lead to confusion since the exact nature of the relation is not always clear from the context.

-wise (wîz'ə'kar) *n.* [*MDu. wīssseggher, soothsayer, alteration of OHG wīssago, seer.*] *Informal.* An offensively self-assured person.

-crack (wîz'krāk') *Slang.* — *n.* A flippant, often sardonic remark. — *vi.* **-cracked, -crack-ing, -cracks.** To make or utter a crack. **— wise'crack'er** *n.*

wise guy *n.* *Slang.* A wiseacre.

Wienheim-er also **weis-en-heim-er** (wîz'ən-hî'mər) *n.* [*< G. -enheimer (as in G. surnames such as Oppenheimer).*] *Informal.* A wiseacre.

wisent (vē'zēnt') *n.* [*G. < OHG wīsun.*] The European bison, *Bison bonasus*.

wish (wîsh) *n.* [*ME wīshen < OE wīscan.*] 1. A desire, longing, or strong inclination. 2. An expression or confession of a desire, longing, or strong inclination. 3. Something desired or longed for. — *v.* **wished, wish-ing, wish-es.** — *vt.* 1. To desire or long for: *WANT.* 2. To entertain or express wishes for: *BID <I wished you good night>* 3. To call upon or invoke *<They wished you luck>* 4. To order or request *<I wish you to return at once>* 5. To impose or force: *FOIST <it was a hard task they wished on me>* — *vi.* 1. To have or feel a desire *<wish for the impossible>* 2. To express a wish. **— wish'er** *n.*

wish-bone (wîsh'bôn') *n.* [*From the superstition that when two people pull it apart a wish will be fulfilled for the one who retains the piece.*] The forked bone, or furcula, anterior to the breastbone of birds, formed by fusion of the clavicles.

wish-ful (wîsh'fəl) *adj.* Having or expressing a wish. **— wish'ful-ly** *adv.* **— wish'ful-ness** *n.*

wish-fulfillment *n.* 1. Gratification of a desire. 2. *Psychoanal.* Satisfaction of a desire or release of tension by the use of imagination.

wish-ful thinking *n.* Erroneous identification of one's own wishes with reality.

wish-wash (wîsh'wôsh', -wôsh') *n.* [*Redup. of WASH.*] *Informal.* A watery drink.

wishy-washy (wîsh'ē-wôsh'ē, -wô'shē) *adj.* **-ier, -iest.** *Comp. of washy < WASH.* *Informal.* 1. Watery: thin. 2. Lacking strength or purpose: *INEFFECTUAL <a wishy-washy character>*

wisp (wîsp) *n.* [*ME.*] 1. A small bunch or bundle, as of straw, hair, or wool. 2. a. One that is thin, frail, or slight. b. A thin or faint streak or line, as of smoke or clouds. 3. A fleeting trace or indication: *HINT <a wisp of a smile>* 4. A flock of birds, esp. of snipe. 5. *Ignis fatuus.*

wisped, wisping, wisps. — *vt.* To twist into a wisp. — *vi.* To drift in wisps *<clouds wisping>* **— wisp'y** *adj.*

wist (wîst) *v.* *Archaic.* *p.t. & p.p. of WIT.*

wis-ter-i-a (wî-stîr'ē-ə) also **wis-tar-i-a** (wî-stâr'ē-ə) *n.* [*NLat. Wisteria, genus name, after Caspar Wistar (1761–1818).*] A climbing woody vine of the genus *Wisteria*, with compound leaves and drooping purplish or white flower clusters.

wist-ful (wîst'fəl) *adj.* [*< obs. wistly, intently.*] Full of a pensive or melancholy yearning. **— wist'ful-ly** *adv.* **— wist'ful-ness** *n.*

wit (wît) *n.* [*ME < OE.*] 1. Natural ability to know or perceive: *INTELLIGENCE.* 2. **wits.** a. Keeness of perception or discernment. b. Sound mental faculties: *SANITY.* 3. a. Ability to perceive and express in an ingeniously humorous way the relationship or similarity between seemingly incongruous or disparate things. b. One noted for this ability, esp. one skilled in repartee. **— at (one's) wits' end.** At the limit of one's mental resources. **— have (or keep) (one's) wits about (one).** To remain alert or calm, esp. in a crisis.

wit (wît) *v.* **wist** (wîst), **wit-ting**, 1st & 3rd person present **wot** (wôt) [*ME < OE witan.*] *Archaic.* — *vt.* To be or become aware of: *LEARN.* — *vi.* To know. **— to wit.** That is to say: *NAMELY.*

wit-an (wî'tən) *pl.n.* [*OE, pl. of wita, counselor.*] 1. The members of the witenagemot in Anglo-Saxon England. 2. The witenagemot.

witch (wîch) *n.* [*ME wicche < OE wicce, witch, and < OE wicca, wizard.*] 1. A woman who practices black magic: *SORCERESS.* 2. A follower of a pagan nature religion having roots in pre-Christian Europe. 3. An ugly, vicious old woman: *HAG.* 4. *Informal.* A bewitching young woman or girl. — *vt.* **witched, witch-ing, witch-es.** 1. To bewitch. 2. To cause, bring, or effect by witchcraft.

witchcraft (wîch'krăft') *n.* 1. Black magic: sorcery. 2. A magical or irresistible influence, attraction, or charm.

witch doctor *n.* A shamanistic healer, sorcerer, or prophet, esp. among traditional African peoples.

witch elm *n.* *var. of WYCH ELM.*

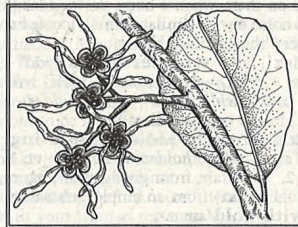
witch-ery (wîch'ə-rē) *n., pl. -ies.* 1. Witchcraft: sorcery. 2. Power to fascinate or charm.

witch-es-broom (wîch'iz-brōm', -brōm') *n.* An abnormal brushlike growth of weak, closely clustered shoots or branches on a tree or woody plant caused by fungi or viruses.

witches' Sabbath *n.* An orgy of demons, witches, and sorcerers.

witch grass *n.* 1. A North American grass, *Panicum capillare*, with branching purplish panicles. 2. Couch grass.

witch hazel *n.* [*From ME wyche, WYCH (ELM) + HAZEL.*] 1. A shrub of the genus *Hamamelis*, esp. *H. virginiana* of eastern North America, bearing yellow flowers that bloom in late autumn or winter. 2. An alcoholic solution containing an extract of the bark and leaves of the witch hazel, applied externally as a mild astringent.



witch hazel

witch-hunt (wîch'hunt') *n.* A political campaign launched on the pretext of investigating activities subversive to the state. **— witch'-hunt'** *v.* (**-hunt-ed, -hunt-ing, -hunts**). **— witch'-hunt'er** *n.*

witch-ing (wîch'îng) *adj.* 1. Relating to or suitable for witchcraft. 2. Having power to charm or enchant: *BEWITCHING.* — *n.* Witchcraft. **— witch'ing-ly** *adv.*

witch moth *n.* [*From its nocturnal habits.*] A large moth of the genus *Erebos* of the southern United States and tropical America.

witch of Ag-ne-si (än-yä'zē) *n.* [*After Maria Gaetana Agnesi (1718–1799).*] A planar cubic curve that is symmetric about the y-axis and that approaches the x-axis as an asymptote.

wite (wît) *n.* [*ME < OE wīte, punishment.*] *Chiefly Scot.* Blame.

wit-e-na-ge-mot (wît'n-ə-gə-mōt') *n.* [*OE wītena gemōt, meeting of councilors.*] An Anglo-Saxon advisory council to the king, composed of about 100 nobles, prelates, and other officials, convened at intervals to discuss administrative and judicial affairs.

with (wîth, wîth) *prep.* [*ME, with, against, from < OE wið.*] 1. As a companion of: *ACCOMPANYING <took the dog with us>* 2. Next to: *<Sit with them>* 3. Having as a possession, attribute, or characteristic: *<people with blue eyes>* 4. a. In a manner characterized by: *<act with decision>* b. In the performance, use, or operation of: *<problems with the plan>* 5. In the charge or keeping of: *<left the kids with a neighbor>* 6. In the opinion or estimation of: *<Is it O.K. with the boss?>* 7. In support of: on the side of: *<We're with you all the way!>* 8. Of the same opinion or belief as: *<Were they with you on that issue?>* 9. In the same group or mixture as: *AMONG <planted onions with the carrots>* 10. In the membership or employment of: *<is with a major airline>* 11. By the means or agency of: *<eat with chopsticks>*

not ou out th thin th this ũ cut ũr urge y young
use zh vision ə about, item, edible, gallop, circus

12. In spite of <With all their wealth, they're still unhappy.> 13. In the same direction as <swim with the current> 14. At the same time as <arose with the birds> 15. In regard to <I am angry with you.> 16. In comparison or contrast to <clothes identical with yours> 17. Having received <With your permission, I'll leave.> 18. And : plus <had coffee with cake> 19. In opposition to : AGAINST <competitors vying with each other> 20. As a result or consequence of : under the influence of <stiff with cold> 21. To : onto <Link your arm with your partner's.> 22. So as to be free of or separated from <had to part with my savings> 23. In the course of <grows prettier with each day> 24. In proportion to <cheese that improves with age> 25. In relationship to <infatuated with a neighbor> 26. In favorable comparison to : AS WELL AS <We can play tennis with the best of them.> 27. According to the experience or practice of <With me, it's a matter of taste.> 28. —Used as a function word to indicate close association <With the jet plane, travel time was cut dramatically.> —**in with**. In league or association with <got in with a popular crowd>

with-al (with-əl', with-) *adv.* [ME : *with*, *with* + *al*, all.] 1. In addition : BESIDES. 2. Despite that : NEVERTHELESS. 3. *Archaic*. There-with. —*prep. Archaic*. With.

with-draw (with-drō', with-) *v.* **-drew** (-drō'), **-drawn** (-drōn'), **-draw-ing**, **-draws**. [ME *withdrawen* : *with*, away from + *drawen*, to pull.] —*vt.* 1. To take back or away : REMOVE. 2. To recall : retract. —*vi.* 1. To move or draw back : RETIRE. 2. To remove oneself from activity or a social or emotional involvement.

with-draw-al (with-drō'əl, with-) *n.* 1. The act or process of withdrawing. 2. a. Termination of the administration of a habit-forming substance <heroin withdrawal> b. The physiological readjustment that takes place upon such discontinuation <withdrawal eased by methadone>

with-drawn (with-drōn', with-) *adj.* 1. Not readily approached : REMOTE. 2. Socially retiring : MODEST. 3. Emotionally unresponsive.

with-e (with, with, with) *n.* [ME < OE *wiððe*.] A tough, supple twig, esp. a willow twig, used for binding things together : WITHY.

with-er (with'ər) *v.* **-ered**, **-er-ing**, **-ers**. [ME *widderēn*.] —*vi.* 1. To dry up or shrivel from or as if from loss of moisture. 2. To lose freshness : DROOP. —*vt.* 1. To cause to shrivel or fade. 2. To render speechless or powerless : STUN.

with-er-ite (with'ə-rit') *n.* [G. *Witherit*, after William Withering (1741–1799).] A white, yellow, or gray vitreous mineral, essentially BaCO₃.

with-e rod *n.* A shrub, *Viburnum cassinoides* of eastern North America, bearing small white flower clusters and bluish-black fruit.

with-ers (with'ərz) *pl.n.* [Prob. < obs. *wither*, against < ME < OE *wider*, from the strain exerted on them when a horse draws a load.] The high point of the back of a horse or of a similar animal, located at the base of the neck and between the shoulder blades.

with-er-shins (with'ər-shinz') *also* **wid-der-shins** (wid'-) *adv.* [Alteration of *widdershins* < MLG *weddersinnes* < MHG *widersinnes* < *widersinner*, to go back : *wider*, back < OHG *widar* + *sinner*, to go < OHG *sinnan*.] In the opposite direction.

with-hold (with-hōld', with-) *v.* **-held** (-hēld'), **-hold-ing**, **-holds**. [ME *witholden* : *with*, away from + *holden*, to hold.] —*vt.* 1. To keep in check : RESTRAIN. 2. To refrain from giving, granting, or allowing. 3. To deduct (withholding tax) from an employee's salary. —*vi.* To forbear : refrain. —**with-hold'er** *n.*

withholding tax *n.* A portion of an employee's wages withheld by the employer as partial payment of the employee's income tax.

with-in (with-in', with-) *adv.* [ME *withinne* < OE *wiðinnan* : *wið*, with + *innan*, into < *in*, in.] 1. In or into the inner part : INSIDE. 2. Inside the body, mind, heart, or soul : INWARDLY. —*prep.* 1. In the inner part or parts of : INSIDE <Frustration grew within me.> 2. Inside the limits or extent of in time, degree, or distance <within an hour of the city> 3. Inside the fixed limits of : not beyond <had trouble living within my means> 4. In the scope or sphere of <within the legal profession> —*n.* An inner position, place, or area <change from within>

with-in-doors (with-in'dōrz', -dōrz', with-) *adv.* Indoors.

with-it (with'it') *adj.* Informal. Up-to-date : hip.

with-out (with-out', with-) *adv.* [ME *withouten* < OE *wiðutan* : *wið*, with + *utan*, outside of < *ūt*, out.] 1. On the outside <an imposing house within and without> 2. With something absent or lacking <We had to go without.> —*prep.* 1. Not having : LACKING <a family without a dollar> <without warning> 2. At, on, to, or toward the outside or exterior of <listening to us without the door> —*conj.* Regional. Unless <"You don't know about me without you have read a book by the name of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*" —Mark Twain>

with-out-doors (with-out'dōrz', -dōrz', with-) *adv.* Outside of a house or shelter : OUTDOORS.

with-stand (with-stānd', with-) *v.* **-stood** (-stōd'), **-stand-ing**, **-stands**. [ME *withstanden*, *withstonden* < OE *wiðstandan* : *wið*, against + *standan*, to stand.] —*vt.* To oppose with force : RESIST. —*vi.* To resist or endure successfully. —**with-stand'er** *n.*

with-y (with'ē, with'ē) *adj.* [ME *withye*, flexible twig < OE *wiðig*.] 1. Made of or as flexible as withes : TOUGH. 2. Agile and wiry. —*n., pl. -ies*. 1. A rope or band made of withes. 2. a. A long flexible twig, as that of an osier. b. A shrub or tree having such twigs.

wit-less (wit'lis) *adj.* Lacking wit or intelligence : STUPID. —**wit-less-ly** *adv.* —**wit-less-ness** *n.*

wit-loof (wit'lōf') *n.* [Du. : *wit*, white + *loof*, leaf.] ENDSIVE. **wit-ness** (wit'nīs) *n.* [ME < OE < *wit*, knowledge.] 1. a. One who has seen or heard something. b. One who gives evidence. 2. Something that serves as evidence : SIGN. 3. *Law. a.* One who is called upon to testify before a court. b. One who is called upon to be present at a transaction in order to attest to what takes place. c. One who signs or her name to a document so as to attest its authenticity. 4. A person's testimony to a fact, statement, or event. —*v.* **-nessed**, **-nesses**. —*vt.* 1. To be present at or have personal knowledge of. 2. To serve as or furnish evidence of. 3. To testify to : bear witness. 4. To be the setting or site of <a church that has witnessed many scenes> 5. To attest to the legality or authenticity of by signing one's name. —*vi.* To serve as or furnish evidence : TESTIFY. —**wit-ness-ness** *n.*

witness stand *n.* The place in a courtroom from which a witness presents testimony.

wit-ti-cism (wit'ti-siz'əm) *n.* [< WITTY.] A witty saying or remark. —**wit-ting** (wit'ting) [Pr.p. of *wit*.] *Archaic*. —*adj.* 1. Aware : CONSCIOUS. 2. Done intentionally or with premeditation : DELIBERATE.

—*n.* Regional. 1. Knowledge or awareness : COGNIZANCE. 2. Information obtained and passed on : NEWS. —**wit-ting-ly** *adv.*

wit-tol (wit'tl) *n.* [ME *wetewold* : *weten*, to know (< OE *witan*) < *coke* < *wold*, cuckold. —see CUCKOLD.] *Archaic*. A man who has been cuckolded by his wife's infidelity.

wit-ty (wit'tē) *adj.* **-ti-er**, **-ti-est**. 1. Having or showing wit in speech or writing. 2. Marked by or having the nature of wit <witty repartee> 3. Quick to discern and express amusing insights. —**wit-ti-ly** *adv.* —**wit-ti-ness** *n.*

wive (wiv) *v.* **wived**, **wiv-ing**, **wives**. [ME *wiven* < OE *wif*, wife.] —*vt.* 1. To marry (a woman). 2. To provide a wife for : TO MARRY A WOMAN.

wi-vern (wi'vərn) *n.* var. of WYVERN.

wives¹ (wivz) *n.* pl. of WIFE.

wives² (wivz) *v.* 3rd person sing. present tense of WIFE.

wiz (wiz) *n.* [Short for WIZARD.] Informal. One considered exceptionally gifted or skilled.

wiz-ard (wiz'ərd) *n.* [ME *wysard* < *wys*, wise < OE *wīs*.] 1. A magician : MAGICIAN. 2. One who is extremely skillful or clever <wizard puter> 3. *Archaic*. A sage. —*adj.* 1. Of or relating to wizardry. 2. Chiefly Brit. Excellent.

▲ **word history**: Wizard is a compound word formed from the adjective *wise*, "learned, sensible," and the suffix *-ard*. The suffix *-ard* originally meant "a wise man, philosopher." The suffix *-ard*, however, most always has a pejorative or disparaging sense, as in *coward*, *drunkard*, and *sluggard*. Wizard was therefore often used temptuously to mean "a so-called wise man," and from this came to mean "sorcerer" and "male witch."

wiz-ard-ry (wiz'ər-dre) *n.* The art, skill, or practice of a wizard.

wiz-en (wiz'ən) *v.* **-ened**, **-en-ing**, **-ens**. [ME *wisene* < *wisnian*.] —*vi.* To wither or sear : dry up. —*vt.* To cause to wither or sear : SHRIVEL or dried up : WITHERED.

wiz-ened (wiz'ənd) *adj.* Shrivelled : wizened.

wo (wō) *n.* *Archaic*. var. of WOE.

woad (wōd) *n.* [ME *wode* < OE *wād*.] 1. An Old World plant, *Isatis tinctoria*, once cultivated for its leaves that yield a blue dye. 2. A dye obtained from the woad.

woad-wax-en (wōd'wāk'sən) *n.* [Alteration of *WOODWAXEN*.] A green dye.

wob-ble *also* **wab-ble** (wōb'əl) [Prob. < LG *wabbeln*.]

-bled, **-bling**, **-bles**. 1. To move erratically from side to side : TREMBLE or quaver, as the voice. 3. To vacillate in one's feelings or opinions. —*vt.* To cause to wobble. —*n.* 1. An act or instance of wobbling. 2. A tremulous, uncertain tone or sound. —**wob-ble-er** *n.*

wob-bly (wōb'lē) *adj.* **-bli-er**, **-bli-est**. Tending to wobble.

Wob-bly (wōb'lē) *n., pl. -blies*. [Orig. unknown.] Slang. A member of the Industrial Workers of the World.

Wo-den *also* **Wo-dan** (wōd'n) *n.* [OE *Wōden*.] Myth. The Teutonic god.

woe (wō) *n.* [ME < OE *wā*, woe.] 1. Deep sorrow : GRIEF. 2. A state of calamity <political and economic woes> —*interj.* To express sorrow or dismay.

woe-be-gone (wō'bi-gōn', -gōn') *adj.* [ME *wo begon*, beset with woe.] 1. Mournful or sorrowful. 2. Being in a sorry state <a woe-be-gone old junkyard>

woe-ful *also* **wo-ful** (wō'fəl) *adj.* 1. Afflicted with woe : MOURNFUL. 2. Causing woe. 3. Pitiful : deplorable.

wok (wōk) *n.* [Cantonese.] A metal pan with a convex bottom, esp. for frying and steaming in Oriental cooking.

woke (wōk) *v.* var. p.t. of WAKE.

wok-en (wō'kən) *v.* var. p.p. of WAKE.

wold¹ (wōld) *n.* [ME < OE *weald*, forest.] An unforested rolling landscape : MOOR.

wold² (wōld) *n.* var. of WELD².

ā pat ā pay ār care ā father ē pet ē be hw which
ī tie īr pier ō pot ō toe ō paw, for oi noise